

## Literacy and Basic Skills – Part of the Apprenticeship Journey

### Preparing for Red Seal exam

My name is Lauren W. and I am a female, licensed 309A electrician. Growing up as a farm girl, staying active and working with my hands always appealed to me. In my late teens I attended Algonquin College to be an Electrical Engineering Technician, where one of my teachers said, "when you graduate, I'll have an opportunity for you." With a diploma in hand, I headed to Toronto to start an electrical apprenticeship. After a few years I moved north to work for a company called Tramin Industries, where I currently work full-time. I finished my 3 rounds of school and 9000 hours which made me eligible to write my red seal exam. This was a tough time for me because I was also learning to be a new mother.

I was told to call Dan at Thunder Bay Literacy Group to help prepare me for my red seal exam. Together, we made a plan to help me study to ensure I was ready. After making a plan together, I studied intensely on areas I knew I needed to improve on so that I could be successful on my next attempt. Through these efforts over the course of a couple of months, I wrote and passed my electrical exam and became a licensed electrician.

Nothing worth doing in this life is ever easy, man or women; that being said, I can honestly say I love my job and I have no regrets becoming a licensed professional in the trades. I am the only women in trades at my place of employment, but I feel very valued at work for the differences I bring to the table and I would love to see more working in trades.

- Sent it by: **Holly Karsten**, Executive Director, Thunder Bay Literacy Group

### [Introduction to Millwrighting pilot program](#)

"From testing in the first week of the Introduction to Millwright Program to supporting participants through a 6 week accelerated learning model, the Adult Learning Centres Grey Bruce Georgian gave all of the participants the tools needed to begin a career as a Millwright. The Adult Learning Centres Grey Bruce Georgian Team easily adapted their teaching method to the learning style for each participant that kept them encouraged to the completion of the program. The team provided weekly updates on the progress of participants and ensured a steady pace throughout. The team was not only essential but were fundamental contributors to the success of the ITM program and

all of the participants. Thank you Adult Learning Centres Grey Bruce Georgian for being there when we needed you.”

- Rozella Johnston, Indigenous Employment and Training Suppliers and Trades | Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | Human Resources | Bruce Power |

" The Introduction to Millwright program was built to support Indigenous recruitment into the Millwright Union. From the moment I spoke with Maria Bertrand from the Adult Learning Centres Grey Bruce Georgian, I was confident that we would be successful with the program. Maria and her team took the challenge head on and built the content needed to teach the participants what they required to pass the required Millwright aptitude testing. They not only taught them the content, but they created an incredible learning environment that permitted the participants to feel safe and comfortable which in turn allowed them to flourish. The results of their efforts were easily displayed with the entire program being successful in their testing. We were so fortunate to have found this organization to support the program and we look forward to our next project that we can partner on.

A big thank you to Maria and her team as they truly made a difference and helped change the lives for those involved."

- Andy Forsyth, Business Consultant, Millwright Regional Council

### [Integrating Skills Upgrading for Success](#)

YouTube video – Literacy Link South Central has developed partnerships LiUNA and Landscape Ontario to support their apprentices.