



MY JOURNEY

Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Pathway to Success

Entrepreneur: Kateri Banning Skaarup
Business: Skaarup Construction
Industry: Construction



From an early age, Kateri always loved drawing houses. Today, Kateri from Fort William First Nation and her husband Dan have successfully owned and operated Skaarup Construction for over 10 years. The two began dreaming of what they could accomplish together in trade school, and decided to take their future into their own hands. Based on their interests of designing and building, the couple began brainstorming where they wanted to be in the future and the goals that would lead them to achieving success.

The fuel behind the fire for Skaarup Construction was to build affordable, beautiful homes for all different income brackets. Kateri successfully accomplished this mission through sheer will, as she did not receive any funding, grants or looked for access to different resources. Taking on a full time job and odd jobs allowed Kateri and Dan to fully finance their business during the first year of operations. Through highs and lows, Kateri has taken on part time jobs in the past to ensure her dream of being an entrepreneur did not get cut short.

Although Kateri has not received official business training or support but she has many mentors that have provided her guidance, and she sees value in learning something from everyone she meets. Kateri's advice to upcoming entrepreneurs is to find what you love and turn that into your business. "Be happy with where you are and know that you have the power to write every chapter from here on out; so don't compete with other's stories of success; make your own!"



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