



**Entrepreneur:** Matt Gladu  
**Business:** M<sup>2</sup> Carpentry  
**Industry:** Construction & Trades



Native to Sand Point First Nation, Matt established his business, M<sup>2</sup> Carpentry five years ago after moving back home to Thunder Bay. To prove he could make it on his own, Matt first moved to western Canada, where he decided to pursue his personal education goals and trade experience. He made the decision to move back home to raise his children in Thunder Bay, and he began working for a local construction company. After seeing a thriving market, Matt thought he could provide exceptional carpentry services himself. Partnering with a fellow journeyman carpenter made Matt's dream of being an entrepreneur a reality.

Matt's mission was to succeed in order to provide for his family, anything beyond that he viewed as a bonus. In order to finance his mission, Matt started slow by purchasing one tool at a time to build his inventory. Although it was a slow process, Matt did not want to receive financial contributions because he wanted to see how far he could go on his own. Matt sought outside support from his family and Elders, and received professional advice from friends who were willing to sit down after hours to discuss business items and planning. Currently, his business is financed by each build he takes on, but believes he has enough experience under his belt to access funding to get to the next level.

He enjoys the freedom of being with his family and participating in activities without having to ask for permission from a boss. Matt's advice to those who want to become an entrepreneur is to remember during tough times that if it was easy everyone would be doing it. Becoming your own boss is difficult but at least you know the outcome will be worth it.



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