

CARPENTRY RAP STUDENT

BUILDING A FUTURE, ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

For Nicholas Lobry, carpentry isn't just a job, it's something he has been drawn to from a very young age. Growing up around family members in the trade, including a grandfather with a Red Seal certification, he developed a strong appreciation for building, hard work, and creating something tangible. That early exposure helped shape a clear path toward a career in carpentry.

"I always loved to build stuff and do manual work. Seeing my family in the trade really reinforced that this is what I want to do," he explains.

His journey into the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) came through his off-campus coordinator, who connected him with an opportunity at GenMec ACL. He jumped at the chance, and it didn't take long for him to make an impression.

On the job site, no two days are the same. From framing and demolition to concrete work, cladding, and collaborating with other trades, Nicholas has experienced the full scope of what carpentry has to offer. Along the way, he has developed a wide range of technical skills.



"I've learned to use tools like hammer drills, tampers, jumping jacks, and concrete saws. I've also operated equipment like a skid steer and boom lift. On top of that, I've learned how to frame walls, complete concrete work from forms to finishing, and read blueprints."

Beyond the technical skills, it's his attitude that stands out most.

His employer speaks highly of his work ethic:

"This student has demonstrated a strong willingness to learn and be coachable, which is a hard trait to find. He shows up prepared, ready to take on any task that's required of him."

Another supervisor echoed that sentiment, noting that Nicholas ***"has a very high ceiling in the trade"***, highlighting his strong potential for growth and long-term success.

For the employer, programs like RAP play a key role in building the future of the trades:

"RAP allows us to bring in motivated young people and teach them the right way from the start. There's a growing demand in the trades, and this program helps bridge that gap while developing skilled, capable workers."

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The experience has also opened Nicholas's eyes to the true scope of the trade.

"The most surprising part was realizing how many different tasks carpenters actually do. They really are the backbone of construction."

More importantly, it has helped shape his long-term goals. Inspired by the professionals he works alongside, Nicholas is aiming to complete his apprenticeship efficiently and ultimately pursue his Red Seal certification, with the goal of becoming a project manager.

"They've pushed me to work hard in everything I do and to keep improving."

For him, RAP has been more than just a placement, it's been a stepping stone.

"I would definitely recommend RAP to other students. It's a great way to get ahead in your apprenticeship, gain real experience, and get paid while doing it. It also helps you figure out what you want to do without being stuck in a classroom all day."

His advice to others is simple:

"Just go for it. Don't be scared to try something new. There's really no downside — you're gaining experience, earning hours, and building your future."

With his strong work ethic, willingness to learn, and passion for the trade, Nicholas is already laying the foundation for a successful career, one project at a time.

