A PROFILE OF
CLORISSA SEFTEL

"What you put into the Mentor Development Program, you get back, and then some."



Finding her place in the trades

A career in the skilled trades wasn't in Clorissa's original plans. On the advice of a friend after high school, she found work as a construction labourer and spent several summers working while she attended college. Although she successfully completed her diplomas, she hadn't found a career that she felt truly passionate about. Everything started to fall into place the day she gave plumbing a try. She finally found a career where she felt at home and she didn't look back! Today, she loves the endless opportunities that plumbing offers her to learn, solve problems and build lasting friendships. For her, there's nothing better than the sense of satisfaction that comes from finishing a job well.

Always a mentor and always learning

Clorissa believes mentorship is an essential part of learning any trade. As individuals gain experience, they pass their knowledge on to the next generation, creating a cycle of learning that benefits everyone. She says she will always see herself as both a mentor and a mentee because every person she works with has something to teach her. Looking back, she credits her own mentors with giving her confidence and encouraging her to earn her plumbing license. Through the highs and lows of her apprenticeship, mentors were always there to support and remind her to keep moving forward.

Growing through the Mentor Development Program

Clorissa joined the National Mentor Development Program because she wanted to be in the company of people who create more positive workplaces in the skilled trades and to become a better mentor herself. She found the program's lessons on communication especially valuable, along with the opportunity to connect with other tradeswomen from across Canada who understood and shared many of the same experiences. Since completing the program, she has been able to apply what she learned by building stronger relationships with her coworkers, creating trust and adapting her mentoring approach to better support people with different backgrounds and needs.

A program she recommends

Clorissa encourages other women to step outside their comfort zone and approach the program with an open mind. She believes the more you invest in the experience, the more you will gain in return. She says the program was an opportunity for personal and professional growth that helped her become a stronger mentor. In addition, the experience reinforced her belief that continuing to challenge yourself is the best way to reach your full potential.

SUPPORTING EQUITY IN TRADES

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