

PLUMBER WITH A FUTURE

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PHOTO: NORIKO TIDBALL

His own truck, a down payment on a condo and a promising career in plumbing - just two years out of high school, and Marcello Simoncioni knows where his life is headed. As he was approaching graduation, Marcello was looking at doing an arts degree at university, and that was a path many of his friends took. But instead he found the Youth TRAIN in Trades plumbing program, and while his friends in university have more free time and are having a lot of fun, Marcello feels he is getting ahead in his career and has already accomplished so much at the age of 20.

The summer following his graduation from Magee Secondary in 2014, Marcello did the six-week Youth TRAIN in Trades plumbing course at the Piping Industry College (PIC) - a partnership program between the Vancouver School Board and PIC - joining a group of his peers just out of high school.

While the money is good, the challenging nature of plumbing, which Marcello likens to playing with Lego, makes it an interesting career with many opportunities. Marcello has been working on construction sites doing large-scale plumbing jobs. His high school math and physics have come in handy - in plumbing, you have to know about velocity, how to calculate PSI and some trigonometry - it's definitely a thinking person's career, he explains.

Plumbing is both physically and mentally demanding and Marcello says he is constantly learning on the job. When faced with a dilemma, you just have to step back and think it through and figure out how to solve the puzzle, he explains.

"When it works, though, it's a pretty good feeling," he says. "There are bumps along the way, but it's a learning curve. You have to learn from your mistakes and be ready to learn on your own."

Marcello recently bought a Ford Kingmaker with all the bells and whistles and has put a down payment on a condo in Kitsilano - he credits his mother for pushing him to put aside 75 per cent of his earnings, but jobs in the trades are well-paid and plentiful, allowing Marcello to save at such a young age.

For now, Marcello is happy with where his career is going, but looking forward into the future, he sees many possibilities - starting his own company, becoming a project manager or training in safety inspections.



For more information about the Plumbing program, go to:
<http://bit.ly/2vQxZDY>

