

TYRONE & ISSAC CHALIFOUX



Tyrone Chalifoux from the Fort McMurray 468 First Nation, signed up for the Summer Youth Work program to find something to keep him busy.

"The youth program was just a job at first but then I started getting more into it and interested," says Tyrone. "It evolved into being something I wanted to do."

Tyrone enjoyed being able to experience a variety of hands-on activities which led to a permanent role in carpentry. And with that he has found focus and confidence as a leader in both his own work and as a mentor for the youth in his First Nation.



"In my community it's important because they are surrounded by all these negative influences. I wanted to surround them with more of a positive influence and a positive outlook on life. It started with my brother. I didn't want him to go down the wrong path. From there it progressed into helping everyone else."

Tyrone knew the negative influences which can surround youth firsthand.

"I know what it is to grow up on the reserve and having all these (negative) examples and everything around you."

Tyrone's brother Issac Chalifoux was also able to participate in programs which created opportunity to experience carpentry and cooking and he enjoyed the challenge of experiencing career opportunities in a hands-on way. Issac also found value in the programs in other ways.

"It keeps kids out of drugs because that really happens around our [reservation]. Keeps them away from all that bad stuff and keeps them occupied."

And although Issac, who is still in high school, has yet to decide what career he will choose in the future, Tyrone aims to continue his work as a carpenter and will continue to share his message of positivity and possibility with the youth in his community.

Committed to his work and filled with a passion to help others, Tyler is grateful for finding his own career pathway through the opportunities that were made available through the funding provided by Rebuilding Fort McMurray program.

