

Matthew's first experience on a construction project was like many others'—full of questions and wonder about what types of skills are required to be successful. With the support of Journeypersons on site, he was quickly assured that as a first-year apprentice, those questions would be answered, and his skills would develop as he progressed through the apprenticeship program. Through his dedication towards developing his trade, Matthew has become a Red Seal Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic and a Gas Technician. He is currently a Service Foreman, as well as a part-time instructor for Local 787 in Ontario.

"I am very honored and excited to have the opportunity to instruct at my Local. Through teaching I have the ability to give back all the knowledge that was provided to me over the years and positively promote skilled trades and the UA."

In 2016, Matthew competed in the Skills Ontario Competition, winning the Bronze Medal for HVAC. That same year he also competed in the UA International Apprenticeship Contest in Ann-Arbor, Michigan, proudly representing Canada as the District 6 competitor in the HVAC contest.

Matthew heard about the UA through a fellow member that explained how great a career with the union could be, including the benefits that come with becoming a member. Once obtaining his Gas Tech licence through a local college, he applied for the first-year apprentice intake with Local 787. Upon being accepted, Matthew was excited to see his name on the board, ready for hire. For Matthew, joining the UA has been one of his greatest life decisions.

As a strong advocate for the UA, Matthew is proud to promote the amount of training that is invested into the membership. Not only do our members become certified, but UA Canada's courses span beyond typical apprenticeship. Our UA Instructors even embark on a 5-year instructor training program to ensure our membership is receiving the most up-to-date programing.

"Joining the Piping Industry is such a rewarding experience! It offers great wages, healthcare benefits and a lifelong career. Personally

speaking, I love having the opportunity to learn new skills and I am proud to be a part of the piping industry."

When asked about Matthew, Gino DeFibo, Training Director for Local 787 had this to say: "Matthew represents a true example of what the UA is all about. He is diligent, passionate, respectful, and an all-around wonderful person."

Thank you for your years of dedication and the support you've shown the UA. We are proud to have you as member—Keep up the great work!

- UA Canada

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