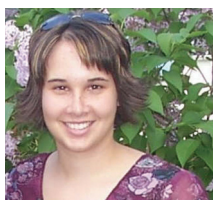




Manitoba Student and Graduate Profile



Running the show at age 23 - and all from the decision to do better in life!



Making optimum use of her **Metis** status for sponsored schooling, **Lori Chartrand** graduated from high school in Winnipegosis, Manitoba, in 2000. She then worked at her uncle's gas station until deciding "to see what the real world is all about." Moving to Thompson in 2002, Lori was employed by the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission and the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Center before making another monumental decision..."to do better in life!"

"Lori has very good troubleshooting skills and is very tenacious. As a graduate of the Cisco Networking Program, she came already trained in the routers we use and so she hit the ground running. She is a big asset to our company and that I can take to the bank."

- Jim Hicks, Manager

Lori started looking at what interested her. She liked computers but hated when she could not fix them. The idea of learning more about them appealed to her and so she phoned the **Assiniboine Community College (ACC)** in Brandon. Liking what she heard, Lori applied—despite apprehensions about returning to school—and was accepted.

At the start of her course, Lori knew enough about computers to complete everyday tasks, but that was about it. Her family knew nothing about the subject and so there would be no support coming from that direction. Lori was on her own. She started her first year in September 2004 but was unsure whether to proceed at the end of it. She finally realized it would be best to continue and came back for the second year of her program, really ready to learn. She took CCNA Levels 1 to 4, and Fundamentals of Wireless LANs

"Lori focused and shone," says Brent Mossop, Lori's instructor. "Growing up in an area that isn't the hub of new technology, things didn't come easily to her. She was not in the top ten percentile in her first year, but she practiced after hours and worked hard to achieve her goals. Lori is one of the students I am most proud of. She's a great example for all, **First Nations** or otherwise."

Asked about the Networking Academy program, Lori says "It was awesome. You need 70 percent to pass but I put more into it. It got me my diploma and taught me how to do what I now do daily... troubleshoot."

Lori graduated in June 2006 and now works as the network administrator for **Cando Contracting**, a railway company installing and maintaining rail lines. At just 23, she is already responsible for the entire corporate network, reporting only to the company's IT manager.

"Lori has very good troubleshooting skills and is very tenacious," says Jim Hicks, Lori's manager. As a graduate of the Cisco Networking Academy Program, she came already trained in the routers we use and so she hit the ground running. She is a big asset to our company, and that I can take to the bank."

Lori wants to take her Network+ exam, and she wants more Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) certification, and a degree in business computers. "The doors are open and right now, I'm just looking," she says. Here's betting Lori finds what she wants.