

Acden is celebrating its 30 year anniversary!!

Acden's story began with a courageous team of trailblazers and a united vision of economic development for purpose-driven profit. Three decades later, Acden has achieved remarkable growth and has reached 21 companies and 1900+ employees in 2024 – a true reflection of economic reconciliation in action.

ACFN Chief Allan Adam tells our story:

"In 1994, Tony Mercredi was Chief of ACFN. During that time, Syncrude and Suncor were gearing up to expand their oil sands operations by 20%. This accelerated the growth of economic opportunity for Indigenous communities in the region. Chief Mercredi realized the opportunity for the Nation to develop a business arm to achieve financial independence. Working together with Syncrude, Chief Mercredi established our founding company that year, Denesoline Environment.

The company started with one truck and 10 employees performing waste management services on-site.

One opportunity led to another and ACFN Business Group was formed as the business arm of the Nation, eventually rebranding in 2012 as Acden.

Since 1994, the corporation has worked to meet the same goals: to ensure a strong, sustainable future for ACFN and to achieve service excellence. With the guidance of ACFN Chief and Council, the administrative team at Acden keeps the vision of Chief Mercredi alive while adapting to an ever-changing economy, industry and region."

Acden is in the early stages of a strategic evolution to plan for the next 30 years. We will continue to invest in innovation, expand our partnerships and grow into new geographic markets. Our experience, expertise and service excellence – developed for the largest energy projects in the country – will support and enhance different industries and communities across Canada.

As we look ahead to the future, we will build on our momentum by investing in our team and delivering for our clients – the way we always have.



Acden is honoured to release a special 30-year anniversary logo commemorating this significant milestone. The final concept was truly a collaborative effort and we are very grateful to everyone who helped shape it.

Vanessa Cardinal, former Acden Marketing Assistant and ACFN member, led the vision for the logo which represents both Acden and ACFN in one meaningful design. Vanessa's idea to add a beaded medallion around the zero was to recognize the professional milestone with an important symbol of tradition, identity, and connection to ancestral heritage. The medallion's purple beads represent Acden's brand colours and the blue, yellow, and orange beads represent ACFN. The colours coming together within the circle symbolizes the connection between the two.

Through further collaboration with Acden's Executive and Board of Directors, the ACFN logo was added to the centre of the zero. This is a very special and meaningful design that we are excited to mark the milestone with.





Blast from the Past





2012

ACFN Business Group Rebranded as Acden

The ACFN Business Group reveals its new corporate identity as Acden. The Acden name is a portmanteau that represents the corporation's owner (ACFN) and founding company Denesoline Environment. The new brand identity reflects Acden's Dene heritage. The primary brand colour: purple, has been used in traditional Athabasca Chipewyan art and apparel throughout history and portrays sophistication and power. The "V" shaped eagle graphic represents continuous growth and Acden's corporate desire to stay connected to its Indigenous heritage.

Acden Corporate Headquarters

Acden opens its new 40,000 sq. ft. LEED Gold Certified facility, the first of it's kind in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, highlighting Acden's dedication to environmental stewardship through incorporation of eco-friendly features.

Denesoline Janitorial (now Acden Bee-Clean)

Acden Holdings



1998

Manufacturing facility opened and providing employment in the community of Fort Chipewyan, AB.



2002

A Nation-to-Nation joint venture combining the strengths and local expertise of the ACFN, Fort McKay First Nation and ESS Support Services.



2009

and CEO,

Garry Flett, President

ACFN Business Group

Acden's Board of Directors

President and CEO of ACFN

Business Group (now Acden)

selects Garry Flett as the

ACFN-Allnorth JV

(now Acden Allnorth)

2008

Lemax Machine and Welding Inc (Acden Lemax)

names and logos of the companies before the



Denesoline Maintenance (now Acden Mechanical



2013

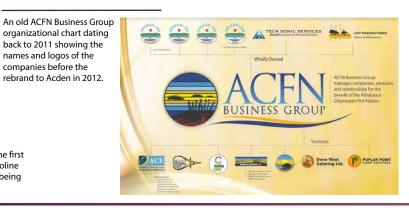
Acden Morgan

Acden Vertex





year of Denesoline Environment being in business.





Chip Manufacturing (Acden Manufacturing)



Poplar Point Catering





1994

Denesoline Environment

(now Acden Environment) Tony Mercredi, then Chief of

the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN), recognized the growing economic opportunity for Indigenous communities in the region. He saw the prospect to develop a business arm that could help his Nation achieve financial independence. Working together with Syncrude, Chief Mercredi established the founding company Denesoline Environment.



2001

Canadian Aqua Jetters (Acden Tech Sonic)



Article from the first

2016

Alberta.

Acden Tech Sonic

expanded location

in Sherwood Park,

shop moves to

We're proud of how far we've come, but we're just getting started.





Acden receives Indigenous Employer of the Year Award from Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board

Acden donates \$250,000 to the Northern Lights Health Foundation



2020

Acden Base Operators





2022

Acden Industrial
Maintenance Services

Acden Myshak

ACFN Prostar



2024

Acden + Rain Cage

Acden CES

Acden Spartan

Acden celebrates 30 years of operations



2017

Acden Horizon North





2019

Acden Bravo Target

Acden Helios





2021

Acden hosts 1st Annual Show & Shine in support of the Centre of Hope

Creation of the Administration Services division





2023

Bobby Thibodeau named as new Chief Financial Officer

Acden Lemax expands, opening second shop in Fort McMurray, AB

Acden recognized with 4 awards:

- RARA Leadership Award Garry Flett, Acden
 President and CEO
- Living Wage Award –
 100th Certified Employer
- 2023 Alberta Construction
 Safety Association Trailblazer Award
- Acden's HR team recognized as "Innovative HR Team of 2023"
- Canadian Occupational Safety 5-Star Psychological Safety Award





Anniversary Profiles

We wouldn't be where we are today without our incredible staff who have contributed to our collective success over the past three decades.

Meet some of our long-standing team members!





I have seen tremendous growth over the past 30 years. It slowly became a steadfast business with its mandate, back from 30 years ago. Recycle, reuse, reduce. At the time we started off with seven employees, and we are now at 2000 (including partnerships). So, in my eyes, that is a tremendous achievement. I never thought 30 years ago that Acden would be a huge success.

Acden is a great employer. They provide employees training, support from all aspects in whichever way is needed. Supporting employees is very important to keep a viable company on the map due to many obstacles such as competition, etc. Happy employees, happy company.

My hope in the next 30 years is that Acden with its concept of recycle, reuse and reduce can expand all ——over the world.

What is your advance for the younger generation entering the workforce?

If their career of choice fits with Acden, apply and take advantage of all of the training, safety courses, etc because Acden is going to be here for a very long time.



Cheryl Jesso Payroll Administrator, Acden Holdings

I have been with Acden for almost 22 years. In that time, I am proud to have had the support of some awesome management and co-workers. Having good leadership and support is important. We also welcomed five grandchildren and nine other children who adopted us as Nanny and Poppy. My heart is full. \checkmark

I think Acden is a great employer because there is room for advancement within the companies. I started as a janitor at Syncrude in October 2002 then moved to the Finance team about a year later.

We've had operators move into supervisory and management roles. Labourers have trained for operator and mechanic positions. The possibilities are endless.

What is your advice for the younger generation entering the workforce?

My advice for the younger generation, just entering the workforce, is advice that I got from my grandfather... "anything worth doing, is worth doing well". Do your best at any job and be proud of your work.

^{*} Peggy is one of the original seven employees who were on the original team at Acden Environment when it was founded in 1994 (then Denesoline Environment).

Cheryl, how do you unwind after work?

I want to say that after a challenging day at work, I spout profanities and have a couple of stiff drinks but that's my guilty pleasure.

Instead... after a challenging day at work I talk to a friend. We end up laughing about something silly and the challenges of the day seem less important and more manageable. In the summer, after a challenging week I like to run away to our camper where I have garden boxes and I share a plot in the campground community garden.





Tracie Holt

HSEQ Junior Coordinator, Acden Holdings

Tracie has been with Acden for 10 years.

Tracie moved to Fort McMurray in 2014 due to a job transfer from Edmonton. She was working at the cat rental store as a customer service representative, unfortunately in that same year she was laid off. Within a couple of months she landed a job at Acden working for Acden Tech Sonic as an ultra-sonic technician.

In 2015 she got married to her boyfriend Jeremy Holt and in the same year they bought their first home in Beacon Hill in Fort McMurray. In 2016 their home was unfortunately destroyed when the wildfire went through the community. It was a rough journey, but they were able to rebuild.

In 2017 they welcomed a little baby boy to their family and after one year of maternity leave, Tracie went back to work. Unfortunately she suffered an injury, and her doctor told her she needed surgery. Around this time Acden put her on modified duty with Acden HSEQ where she was helping with administrative duties and learning more about safety culture. After having the surgery, she was on short-term disability. When she returned to work she decided to transfer to the Acden HSEQ team. Later she went to school and took HSEQ administration at Reeves college as well as other safety courses that were available to her.

After her schooling was completed, she was officially part of the Acden HSEQ team. She learned a lot from her peers and wanted to learn and experience more to further her career. This year she was promoted to HSEQ Junior Coordinator. She loves her new position, she gets to work with new hires, help them with training and instructing orientations.

How do you unwind after work?

I like to take my dog for a long walk or even to go the dog park with some other dog parents. I also like hanging out with my son and go on bike rides to the park. When it's just me, I like to journal and bake.

What is your advice for the younger generation entering the workforce?

Work hard and learn as much as possible. Ask questions, get the facts, and be engaged in your company and community.



Michael Daniel Moroz Welder, Acden Lemax

I've been with Acden for 15 years, where they have kept me employed and have always been there when I needed them.

What global changes do you hope to see happen in the future?

I want to see an invention created to filter the sun's rays from the planet to stop it from warming too fast.

What is your advice for the younger generation entering the workforce?

Work hard but don't sacrifice your family over your work. You need to balance work and home life.

How do you unwind after work?

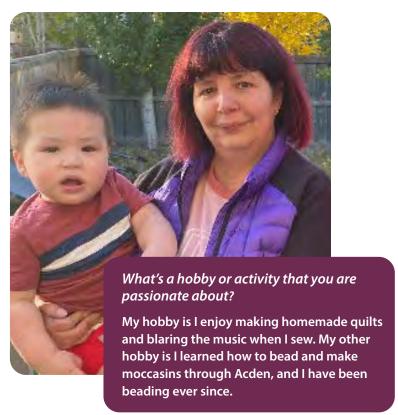
I like to sit on the couch, drink a soda and play video games for an hour.

What's a skill you want to learn about?

I love to cook and sing I wish I was good at both.

What's a hobby or activity that you are passionate about?

I love to be outdoors, hiking, fishing, hunting, and I am a huge foodie I like to travel to different countries to try different foods.



Nancy Ladouceur HRIS Administrator, Acden Holdings

What is an achievement you're most proud of during the 15 years you've been at Acden?

Personally – My greatest achievement is seeing my adult children go into a career path of their choice like trades and Information Technology (I.T.). One adult is going back to university to finish off her BA this Fall although she has two diplomas already in Law Clerk & Horticulturist.

In your experience, what makes Acden a great employer?

I would not know where to start. There is no other place that I would want to be. I started as the Front Desk Administrator and got promoted to the position I have now. Acden helps you grow with the company. They are a diverse company and I always say Acden is one big family.

I enjoy working with all my coworkers and Acden. They are dedicated team building and provide cultural workshops during lunch time that is set every few months. We get to learn to make moccasins, earrings, beaded pins, etc. The company invests in its employees.

What is your advice for the younger generation just entering the workforce?

First, complete high school and get your drivers licence. Think of a career path you may be interested in by grade 9. Follow your dreams and never give up till you reach the career you see yourself in.



Ivan Day
Building Operator, Acden Holdings

What is an achievement you're most proud of during the 12 years you've been at Acden?

I have been with Acden for 12 years. My greatest achievement during that time was being able to help/mentor some younger workers just entering the workforce.

It's been a wonderful and exciting 12 years. I can honestly say that I enjoy going to work each day and look forward to learning new things from the talented people I work with. The leadership has been great and I am proud to say I work for Acden and to be part of the Acden family.

In your experience, what makes Acden a great employer?

There are many things that make Acden a great place to work. But two that come to mind right away is its safety program. You will never be asked to do anything that will put you in harm's way. I have said many times that I am glad I work for Acden after hearing about safety issues with other companies and how they were handled. Also, the leadership and employees make you feel that you are part of a family, the Acden family, and they are there to help whenever you need it.

What is your advice for the younger generation just entering the workforce?

Be hardworking, honest and reliable.



Koady Murray
Site Superintendent – Suncor Base Plant, Acden Tech
Sonic

You have been with Acden for 10 years - what is an achievement you're most proud of during that time?

Being awarded the contract at Suncor and working with my team and the support from many other Acden business units through all the challenges to make it successful.

In your experience, what makes Acden a great employer?

Acden offers a healthy and safe work environment with flexible work schedules. It has strong values and supports and challenges its employees to grow and creates opportunities to foster long-term employment.

What is your advice for the younger generation just entering the workforce?

Seek opportunities, training and ask questions, dedicate yourself to your position, work hard and show up for your team and be a positive influence regardless of your position. Opportunities come with time, patience, and willingness to get out of your comfort zone.

How do you unwind after a challenging day at work?

Spend time with my family, hop on the motorcycle, and then finish the evening with a cold beverage while building a new Lego set.



Irene Castor HR Administrator, Acden Holdings

I have been with Acden for 24 years and Acden has allowed me to grow with the company.

What is your advice for the younger generation entering the workforce?

Wisdom. Education is the key. Never be afraid to learn, the more you know the better knowledge you will have in life.

What's a hobby or activity that you are passionate about?

I love the great outdoors and spending time with family. To me, family is everything. They are my glue that holds everything together. Family is love.





Carli Gretzan

IT Specialist: Audits and Compliance, Acden Holdings

Being here 10+ years, I have seen first-hand the growth this company has had and the encouraging environment that is fostered. I am very grateful for the amazing people that I get to work with every day.

If you were a sandwich, what sandwich would you be and why?

I think I'm most comparable to a grilled cheese sandwich because it's a reliable comfort food for a lot of people. I have always lived my life striving to let others know that I am there for them to help, listen, and support in whatever way I can!

How do you unwind after work?

My favourite way to unwind after a long day at work is getting some fresh air with my fiancé and dog. We are so fortunate to have so many beautiful walking trails in Fort McMurray and being in nature never fails to recharge me.

What's a hobby or activity that you are passionate about?

People may not know about my obsession with puzzles. Whether it's a challenging jigsaw puzzle or an escape room, I love all things that require brain power to solve.

From the Desk of Carla Clark

Carla Clark, HR Manager

We are excited to say that we have reached 20% Indigenous representation in our workforce. This means that one in every five employees are Indigenous. Acden is excited to see this number grow and for our non-Indigenous employees to learn more about Indigenous culture and history and have the opportunity to embrace the rich heritage of the Indigenous people. We are also excited to note that our employment of ACFN members company-wide has increased 4% from this time last year. What a win for Acden and the Nation, and way to go HR team on working hard to stay in touch with ACFN members seeking employment.

Effective August 1, Acden introduced changes to the RRSP contribution program for permanent new hires to immediate eligibility, and temporary employees are now eligible for the first time, after a 6 month wait. Acden was excited to introduce this change to enhance the financial stability and future security of all our employees.

HR introduced a new applicant tracking system called Team Tailor which went live in August. This new system will make it significantly easier to streamline recruitment and selection processes and allow recruiters to easily identify internal applicants. Information will be going out this month regarding how internal employees can get set up for job alerts and be tagged as "internal" when applying.

On October 16, Acden HR attended ACFN's first ACFN Urban Job Fair and Conference held in Edmonton. It was an incredible day filled with inspiring speakers, great conversation and even an Indigenous fashion show. Congratulations to the ACFN/DLRM teams on a successful event!

An update from your HSEQ team

Gaylene Reynolds, HSEQ Manager

HSEQ is moving into the quarter of the year where we focus on quality. Keep an eye on the calendar for contests and make sure you enter to win!

In the last few months, we've been thrilled with the level of engagement in the roll out and use of the Ecompliance system and we hope you are seeing the benefits in the field. As always, the team is available to travel to site to provide one on one training and help you work through any issues you may be experiencing. Thank you so much to everyone for embracing this change and making it work.

June saw the beginning of both 'Move with HSEQ' and 'Eat with HSEQ'. Every Wednesday and Friday at noon HSEQ hosts fitness classes at Taiganova and all participants leave with a healthy recipe to try. These sessions are open to all employees – if you feel like dropping in to the training area at Taiganova on a Wednesday or Friday at lunch you're more than welcome to join the crew and get your fit on!

We were happy to host Mental Health First Aid training again in Q2. Look for more sessions in 2025 – they fill up quickly and this training is always really well received by the participants as it helps in both professional and personal development.

The safety crew is getting out in the field more and spending time providing assistance with Ecompliance questions, training, competency checks, SJP and SWP creation and updates, and providing feedback on working safely to our field teams. We really enjoy our time with you and welcome any requests for us to come out and touch base – just send a request through to training so we can put it on the calendar and get someone out to your location.

Coming in the future for everyone are updates to current standards and new codes of practice and guidance documents to help everyone stay safe and meet legislation. Lunch and learn workshops will begin again soon - watch for notifications on Bitrix.



Acden in Action in the Community





Congratulations to Cameron Loose!

Bobby Thibodeau, Chief Financial Officer

Acden is thrilled to celebrate the recent accomplishment of Cameron Loose, Controller for Acden Tech Sonic and Acden Manufacturing, who has successfully obtained his Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation. This achievement marks a significant milestone in Cameron's career and highlights his dedication and perseverance.

Cameron joined Acden in 2018, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his previous roles. Before relocating to Fort McMurray in 2008 with his wife Jodie and their young family, he worked as a financial controller for a large forestry and lumber hauling contractor in British Columbia. His academic credentials include an MBA from Athabasca University, which he completed in 2005. Upon moving to Fort McMurray, Cameron took on various roles at Sterling Crane, including administration manager, branch manager, and financial controller, demonstrating his versatility and leadership.

Upon joining Acden, Cameron was eager to pursue a long-held goal of earning the CPA designation. This journey was far from easy, requiring numerous evenings and weekends dedicated to studying, completing assignments, attending workshops, and writing exams. Cameron's determination and "one course at a time" mindset were crucial in overcoming the challenges he faced. After five years of hard work, Cameron proudly received his CPA designation in January 2024.

Cameron expresses deep gratitude for the support and encouragement he received from Acden's leadership team, his co-workers, and his CPA mentor and Acden VP, Chief Financial Officer at the time, Bryn Botham. This support system played a vital role in his success, reflecting Acden's commitment to employee growth and development.

Cameron would like to acknowledge Acden as a company proud to foster a positive workplace culture that emphasizes support, work-life balance, and the professional growth of its employees. He is proud to be a team member of Acden, one of the largest Indigenous employers in Canada. Acden is dedicated to contributing to the success of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, and employees like Cameron are integral to this mission.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Cameron Loose on this remarkable achievement and look forward to his continued contributions to the Acden team. His journey is an inspiration, embodying the spirit of perseverance, dedication, and excellence.

Acden Mechanical Repair & Maintenance achieves 800,000 hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI) milestone

Doug McCoy, VP, Chief Operating Officer

Congratulations are in order! It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire team at Acden Mechanical Repair & Maintenance on achieving an outstanding milestone of 800,000 hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI). This remarkable accomplishment exemplifies your unwavering commitment to safety, diligence, and professionalism in every aspect of your operations. Such a significant achievement not only reflects your dedication to maintaining a safe working environment but also underscores your leadership in setting industry standards.

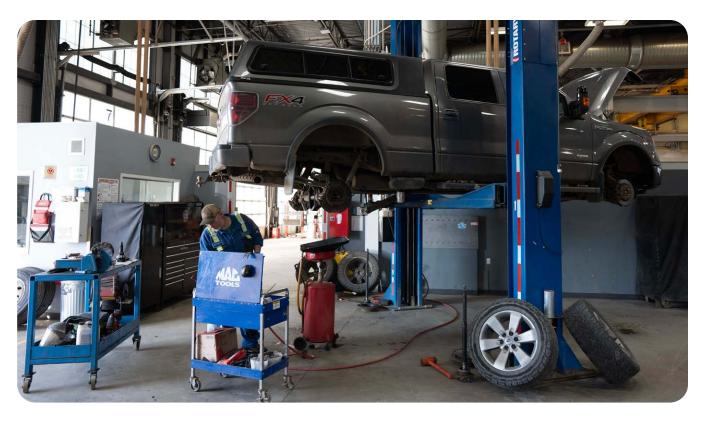
Safety is a cornerstone of any successful organization, and your achievement of this milestone is a testament to the effectiveness of your safety protocols, training programs, and the collective efforts of your team members. By prioritizing safety, you have not only protected your workforce but also demonstrated your commitment to excellence in service delivery.

As you celebrate this milestone, please accept my sincere appreciation for your ongoing efforts to uphold the highest standards of safety and performance in the industry. Your dedication serves as an inspiration to others and sets a benchmark for excellence.

Once again, congratulations to the entire team at Acden Mechanical Repair & Maintenance. May your continued success and dedication to safety pave the way for even greater achievements in the future.

Best wishes for continued prosperity and safety.

Doug McCoy VP, Chief Operating Officer



Announcing our new name... Acden Mechanical Repair & Maintenance

We are excited to share that Acden Fleet has changed ourname to Acden Mechanical Repair & Maintenance to better reflect the deeper service offering that we provide.

Under our new name, our commitment to providing excellent services to our valued clients remains unchanged. Whether it's a company fleet or a personal vehicle, you can continue to count on great value, quality services, and honest advice – from the same local experts.





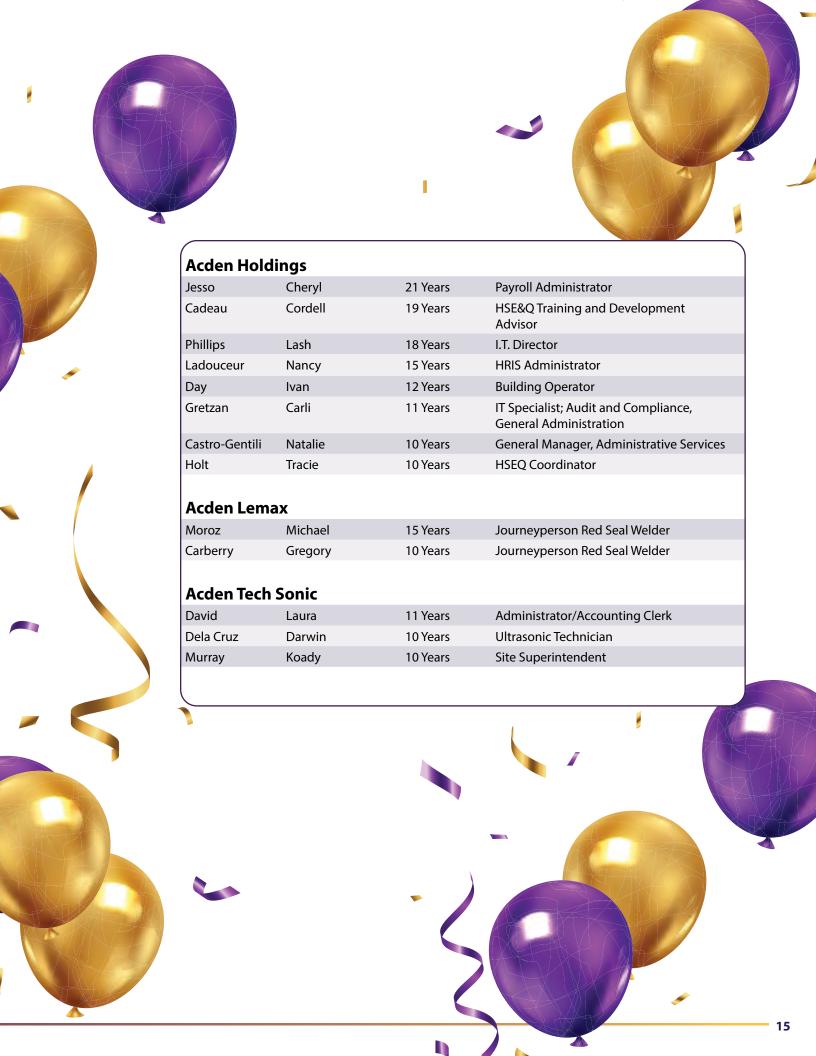
Long-Tenured Employee Anniversaries!

Acden celebrates and values all employees no matter how long they've been with our company. For this special anniversary edition of The Buzz, we are highlighting Acden employees who have been with the company for 10 consecutive years or more.

Congratulations and thank you for your collective contribution to our success!

nment Nur Michel Paul	16 Years 15 Years	Operator Operator
Michel Paul		•
Paul	15 Years	Operator
		Operator
	14 Years	Operations Supervisor
Bradley	14 Years	Operations Supervisor
Christopher	14 Years	Operations Manager
Sageer	13 Years	Operations Supervisor
Peggy	13 Years	Administration Assistant
Brent	11 Years	Operations Supervisor
Calvin	11 Years	Accounts Manager
Adam	11 Years	Operator
Michael	10 Years	Foreperson
Calvin	10 Years	Operator
Curtis	10 Years	Operator
Jarrett	10 Years	Landfill Equiptment
George	10 Years	Operator
Monty	10 Years	Hazardous Waste Technician II
Corey	10 Years	Operator
Maurice	10 Years	Operator
Dave	10 Years	Operations Supervisor
David	14 Years	Automotive Service Technician
Renee	13 Years	Operations Coordinator
Bobby	13 Years	Lead Hand Automotive Service Technician
Calvin	10 Years	Heavy Equipment Technician
Robert	10 Years	Heavy Equipment Technician; 2nd Year Apprentice
Chrstopher	10 Years	Heavy Equipment Technician
Glen	10 Years	Parts Technician
1		
Doug	16 Years	Vice President, Chief Operation Officer
Doug		
	Peggy Brent Calvin Adam Michael Calvin Curtis Jarrett George Monty Corey Maurice Dave David Renee Bobby Calvin Robert Chrstopher Glen	Peggy 13 Years Brent 11 Years Calvin 11 Years Adam 11 Years Michael 10 Years Curtis 10 Years Jarrett 10 Years George 10 Years Monty 10 Years Corey 10 Years Maurice 10 Years Dave 10 Years Bobby 13 Years Calvin 10 Years Calvin 10 Years Corey 10 Years The series of the s





Driving Change: Acden Show and Shine Raises Over \$27K for the Centre of Hope

This summer's Acden Show and Shine was a tremendous success, raising over \$27,000 to support the Centre of Hope's (COH) Drop-In Program. With community members, sponsors, and volunteers all pitching in, the annual car show has grown into the COH's largest fundraising event, making a lasting impact in the community.

The funds raised at this year's event will go directly to provide essential services to those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The COH Drop-In Program offers basic necessities like socks, underwear, showers, laundry services, breakfast, and snacks. These vital resources ensure that those in need can receive support, care, and dignity throughout the year.

The COH expressed heartfelt gratitude to Acden and its team for their ongoing commitment, thanking everyone involved for helping make the event a success.

"The proceeds from the event go directly to support our Drop-In Program, which provides basic needs and critical services to those experiencing homelessness in our community," shared Rosie Keating, Executive Director of the COH. "Thanks to Acden, and all the individuals and organizations who support this event, we're able to meet ongoing needs and purchase necessary items beyond the generous donations we receive."

Acden is proud to be a part of this meaningful event each year, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Centre of Hope as we work together toward a brighter future for our community.

"The behind-the-scenes advocacy and support that the COH team provides to this community is inspiring and moving. Meeting the team from the COH and seeing their passion for supporting their clients and giving them hope has shone a different light on why it is named the "Centre of Hope". I am so proud of Acden for supporting this organization and collaborating on this event" shared Garry Flett, Acden President and CEO.

