

LEANA KENNEDY



G-MAN WASTE REMOVAL - RECYCLING - COMPOST COLLECTING
Millbrook First Nation, Nova Scotia

Co-creator and co-owner of G-Man Waste Removal, Leana Kennedy, is a self-proclaimed “fixer”. “I wouldn’t recommend it,” she laughs, “you can’t do everything yourself.”

This unassuming powerhouse of a business owner, mother, and Councillor in her home community of Millbrook First Nation, Nova Scotia, has made jewelry, fixed airplanes, sold real estate, put herself through business school, built a successful business, and is now looking toward even more new projects. “I love new projects,” she states. “I’d love to work in building homes out of shipping containers, and cleaning up oceans. I also have a passion for whales. I don’t know much about it all yet, but...” Then you get a sense of this adventurous mind and spirit at work.

Leana started G-Man Waste Removal with her husband and partner, Shane Kennedy in July 2017. G-Man Waste Removal is a full service waste hauling company that services residential and commercial clients with the removal of organic, recyclable and landfill waste.

Although a younger business, G-Man Waste Removal is already receiving and being nominated for awards. The company has been awarded Ulnooweg’s 2018 Entrepreneur - New Business Start Up of the Year, Divert NS 2018 Mobius Award of Environmental Excellence - Small Business of the Year and Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce 2019 - New Small Business of the Year.

Shane and Leana regularly participate in certification training and represent their community at solid waste management (SWM) committees, provincial workshops and regional forums. Ongoing collaboration with the inclusion of First Nations communities, Tribal Councils and Indigenous Services Canada are key to addressing local, provincial, and federal issues. Shane has 20 years experience in the fishing industry and Captains vessels in both Area 24 (Snow Crab) and LFA35 (Lobster) where he deals with ghost gear issues first hand. Leana has travelled throughout the province to advise communities on residential waste, and how much can be diverted, in order to increase recycling and waste diversion in other communities. As Leana says, “the world is so connected, and affected.”

Leana also offers advice to people who may want to set up their own business in this industry and often receives calls and answers questions for start-ups. Even with potential competitors, she laughs, “there’s no harm in sharing because it’s not a secret, there is no secret recipe for anyone.”

Her generosity is evident. She talks about when she used to make jewelry and how she loved making it, but says she was terrible at selling it. “I’ll work myself to the bone but I hate charging for it.”

But this hard-working, soft spoken, successful mother says the hardest part is just deciding what you want to do. After that, she says, you just work out the kinks because you have to.

“This is a dream to me,” she says. “to have my own successfully operating business.” And she mentions a story of when she would drive her truck to collect from a dumpster at a pre-school and how she loved to see all the little girls in the window waving at her driving the garbage truck. She wants them to know “they can be and do anything they want to if they put their mind to it”.

Ulnooweg helped Leana and Shane achieve their dream. Ulnooweg has been providing loans and business services to Aboriginal entrepreneurs throughout Atlantic Canada since 1986.



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