



History

Alain Bouchard, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc., started the chain with one store in 1980. In 1986, with a network of 34 stores, a predecessor of Couche-Tard completed an initial public offering and listed its shares on the Montreal Exchange. In 1994, the predecessor company was privatized by its majority shareholder, Actidev Inc., a publicly-held company. Later that year, Actidev Inc., changed its corporate name to *Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.*

After establishing a leading position in Quebec, Couche-Tard expanded through internal growth and acquisitions in Ontario and Western Canada in 1997. In May 1997, Couche-Tard acquired from Provigo Inc. 245 *Provi-Soir* stores in Quebec and 50 *Wink's* stores in Ontario and Western Canada.

In April 1999, Couche-Tard acquired 980 stores in Ontario and Western Canada operating under the *Mac's*, *Mike's Mart* and *Becker's* banners through the acquisition of Silcorp Limited, a publicly-traded company. Beginning in 2001, Couche-Tard began making acquisitions in the United States namely in June 2001, whereby it acquired 172 stores under the *Bigfoot* banner located in Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. In August 2002, Couche-Tard acquired 287 stores under the *Dairy Mart* banner located in these states and other located in Pennsylvania and Michigan. In December 2003, Couche-Tard acquired from Circle K 1,663 stores located in 16 states in addition to the 616 franchised stores and under licence.

Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. is the leader in the Canadian convenience store industry. In North America, Couche-Tard is the second largest independent convenience store operator (whether integrated or not with a petroleum company) in terms of number of stores. Couche-Tard currently operates a network of 5,360 convenience stores, 3,308 of which include motor fuel dispensing, located in nine large geographic markets, including six in the United States covering 28 States and three in Canada covering six provinces. Some 39,500 people are employed throughout Couche-Tard's retail convenience network and executive offices.