

Mr. Alberta: Premier Lougheed

By Sahil Sahota

Beep!!! “Yes Sam, what category do you choose?” Alex Trebek asked.

“I choose Alberta for \$400,” I excitedly answered! My heart was racing and small beads of sweat were trickling down my forehead. My mouth was arid and I could hardly utter a word.

“This is Alberta’s provincial flower,” Alex stated.

“What is the Wild Rose?” I proclaimed.

“Yes Sam, that is correct. Pick your next category.”

“I choose Alberta for \$200.”

“This premier of Alberta played for both the Alberta Golden Bears and Edmonton Eskimos,” Alex recited.

“Who is the honorable Premier Lougheed?” I enthusiastically squealed.

“Correct, Sam! Pick your next category, and this will be your final question for the \$10 000 post secondary education award and title of Student Jeopardy Champion,” Alex declared.

“I choose lucky Alberta again for \$1000,” I blurted out.

“Premier Lougheed created this fund from oil profits during boom times,” Alex stated.

“What is the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund?” I shouted excitedly.

“Yes, you are correct and are now our new Student Jeopardy Champion. We are also extremely privileged today to have a mystery guest personally award you your winnings. Please give a round of applause to Mr. Alberta: the honourable Premier Peter Lougheed,” Alex announced enthusiastically. Mr. Lougheed then walked in and charismatically shook my trembling hand and congratulated me.

“Mr. Lougheed, it is an honour to finally meet you in person,” I passionately articulated. “You are a great leader, Albertan, and a great Canadian. I have a keen interest in politics and have been following your illustrious career. I know you have always believed in higher education. You first received your Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Law degree at the University of Alberta before pursuing a Masters of Business Administration degree from the prestigious Harvard University. This great knowledge and experience then set the stage for you to represent the wide diversity of citizens living in Alberta. In 1965 you were elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta. Then in 1971 you were re-elected in your riding of Calgary West as the Alberta PC party won the majority in the government. For the next fourteen years, you were the Premier of Alberta. During this time, you helped shape Alberta into the great province it is today. I am proud to be an Albertan. I feel privileged to be in the presence of such a brilliant business man. You realized early that our natural resources are indeed limited, and that profits from them should be invested wisely for our future. One of your first major acts was to increase the royalties paid by oil companies to the province. You

were also known for promoting industrial development, improving health care, and developing recreational sites.”

Premier Lougheed has personally inspired me to be involved in my school community and my community at large. He was known as saying, “I think in terms of community before individuals. That’s the essence of Alberta and to a large extent that’s the essence of Canada as well.” I am also very impressed at the importance Premier Lougheed placed on higher education. I too, dream to attend Harvard University someday. Education provides the foundation for creativity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the world. Education breaks barriers and facilitates a better connection and communication between individuals. Alberta is rich in knowledge, finances, and infrastructure thanks to Premier Lougheed’s vision and compassion for fellow Albertans.

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