

Champion Essay: E. Peter Lougheed

Calgary is a city that has been shaped into a vibrant and active place by many citizens. E. Peter Lougheed, a born and raised Calgarian, was one of these that prompted good change in Calgary and Alberta. Throughout this essay, the paragraphs will outline Peter Lougheed's background, accomplishments, leadership styles, how his leadership can make a connection to the current issues today, and how I can connect to him and his idea of leadership. Now, what were Peter Lougheed's accomplishments and how did they make Calgary and Alberta great?

First of all, Peter Lougheed's young adulthood was accomplished. He received his Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees at the U of A. During this time at the U of A, Peter Lougheed played for the University Golden Bears Intercollegiate Football Club, was elected President of the Students' Union, and wrote in the sports section of the U of A newspaper, The Gateway. He also played with the Edmonton Eskimos in the Canadian Football League from 1949-1950. Following his years at the U of A, Mr. Lougheed went to Harvard and received his MBA degree, which is quite an outstanding accomplishment. In 1955, Peter Lougheed started practicing law in Calgary. Later, he took a management position at the Mannix Corporation and flew to the top as Vice President and then Director. This shows at an early stage in his adulthood, he was already multi-talented and was able to lead something grand.

Afterwards, his political career took off like a jet plane. In 1965, Peter Lougheed was chosen to be the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta. Then in 1971, Mr. Lougheed won the election and ended the 36 year rule of The Social Credit Party in Alberta. This was a stunning accomplishment. Peter Lougheed stayed the Premier of Alberta from 1975-1985. During his time, Mr. Lougheed kept Alberta's interests at heart by focusing on oil sands technology and research, creating foundations such as the Heritage Savings Trust Fund for the needs of future Albertans, and the Alberta Heritage Savings Foundation for medical research. He also created provincial parks for Albertans to enjoy like Kananaskis Country and Fish Creek. These are all ways he supported the community. Additionally, Peter Lougheed participated in changing Canada's new Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He strove for Alberta to have a strong voice in national decision-making for Canada. Alberta was a brand new world after he was Premier.

Moreover, Peter Lougheed strongly assisted bringing the 1988 Winter Olympic Games to Calgary, and resulted in getting awarded into the Olympic Hall of Fame and the Canadian Olympic Order. These games created more jobs through construction and grew the hospitality industry. This benefitted Calgary financially. The Winter Olympic buildings are still standing today (Winsport) and are used for public enjoyment and for athletes to train. These landmarks in Calgary carry a legacy that Peter Lougheed helped create just like the Eiffel Tower carries a legacy in Paris, France.

Furthermore, Peter Lougheed had many qualities that made him a great leader. Firstly, when he was Premier of Alberta, Mr. Lougheed's favourite part was listening. He liked to listen to the people from his party and the general public to see what they wanted. As E. Peter

Lougheed said, "The attribute that really pays off is listening ability. Both listen to the people that are involved with you working in the Office of the Premier, listening to the media... listening to your party and the general public." Also, Peter Lougheed believed in creating a positive future. He always wanted to talk positively. Peter Lougheed said, "Our whole approach as a political party was to talk not so much negatively, but we wanted to talk about the future of the province and we wanted to talk positively." Another leadership trait Mr. Lougheed possessed was knowing the importance of teamwork. A quote that supports this idea is when Mr. Lougheed said, "My whole life, 365 days a year, was team sports and I found anything in my public life we really accomplished that was worthwhile we accomplished as a team." Lastly and in my opinion, Peter Lougheed had a vision to support the people when he was Premier and future citizens. This vision is supported by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. Peter Lougheed said, "Because we had the resource revenues (we were able to) save those resource revenues for the future and create the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund."

Where is Peter Lougheed when Alberta again needs him? Once more, we are on the brink like we were before he came to power. We need his innovation, his voice to make ours heard in Ottawa, and his ear to listen to us. The Oil and Gas Industry is suffering and a lot of people are losing their jobs. If Peter Lougheed were here right now, he might have been able to grasp the problem and pull us out of the darkness. As the inventor of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Mr. Lougheed designed it to help future citizens if there was a problem with the economy. Right now, he might have used this fund to support people who have lost their jobs. The Heritage Savings Trust Fund could be used to aid research activities to develop ideas of how to make the oil sands cleaner as well as other projects. This would create jobs and make our economy better.

This champion has inspired me to make my vision come true. Peter Lougheed had a vision and plan for his life. His vision was to put Alberta on the national scale and ensure Alberta had a healthy economy. He had a goal and he achieved it through hard-work, listening, being positive, and working as a team!

Canada has been welcoming Syrian refugees into our communities. Many refugees are children and have started going to school. It would be very stressful to be learning about our culture and a different curriculum all in a new language. I have had my fair share of changing schools and it is stressful even when I know the language everyone is speaking. I can't imagine how the Syrians feel when they only know their home country language. It would make it hard for them to make friends and learn. At my school in Calgary, there is a Syrian refugee. She was warmly welcomed, but English is still an obstacle for her.

If I follow E. Peter Lougheed's recipe for success, I can strive to make my community a better place. A way I can do this is supporting the Syrian refugees more. Even though I am only 14, that doesn't mean I can't try to improve my community. I have thought of a program called "Give a Voice, Learn a Voice." This program helps the Syrians learn English or French, catch up on the curriculum, and learn about our culture. Yes, this already happens, but it is mostly performed by teachers. Give a Voice, Learn a Voice would be performed by volunteer students.

This gives the refugee an opportunity to make some friends while learning. The program will take away some of the student's stress. I understand that this program might not be useful to every school because not every school gets a new student who can't speak English or French. Canada is however bringing in more refugees. Give a Voice, Learn a Voice might help a lot of these refugees.

I believe Peter Lougheed would have been a strong supporter of this idea. Mr. Lougheed wanted all Albertans voices to be heard.

Overall, E. Peter Lougheed was/is very inspiring and achieved a lot over his lifetime. He was a champion to Alberta and Calgary. Becoming Premier of Alberta, he made Alberta more important, changed Canada's new Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and created some wonderful parks. He played high-level football and helped bring the 1988 Winter Olympics to Calgary. It is amazing to know how much he did and how much he changed Alberta for the better. I believe that everyone should present some kind of leadership that benefits everyone around them. We need to all work as a team, be positive, and listen to one another just as Peter Lougheed recognized. Find a champion, be a champion.

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