

# IMAGINE...

BY: SHAHANA IMAAN MAMDANI

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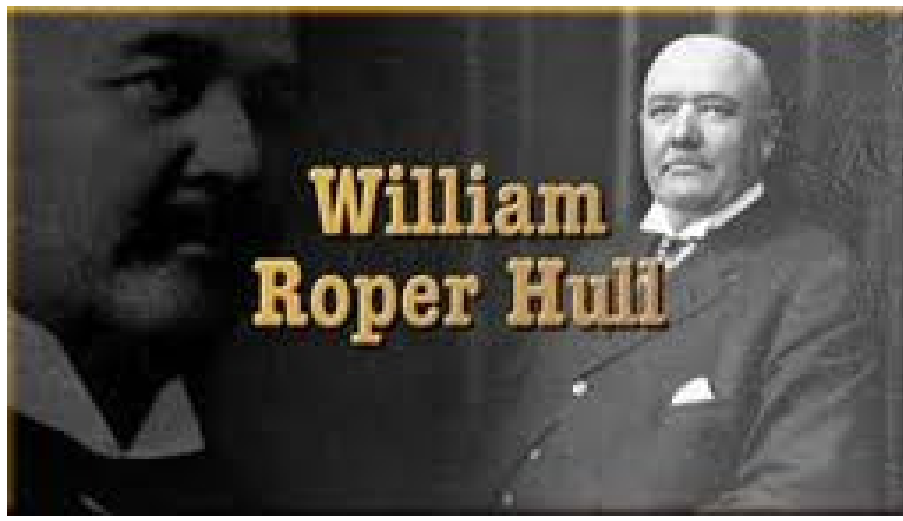


Figure1

# IMAGINE...

Imagine 1883. How would you envision Calgary in the future? “There will be a city of at least 25,000. I see houses, schools, shops and churches and everything one needs for a happy life and I will help to build it.” These are the famous words of William Roper Hull, a man that not only helped build Calgary, but left behind a legacy that continues to affect the lives of Calgarians today.

Born in Somerset, England in 1856, William Roper Hull came to Canada, and eventually settled in Calgary in 1882. Hull quickly became involved with the development of the city. In 1903, William married Emmeline Mary Bannister Ellis. His values around business, family life and social responsibility helped William bring to life his vision of Calgary.

William Roper Hull’s success as a business person in Calgary began with a career in ranching. This led to the establishment of the Bow Valley Ranche, where Hull ran his meat packaging plant. On the land, William built a historic house that still stands today, in Fish Creek Provincial Park and is used as a restaurant. Shortly after Hull built the house, the family meat business was sold to Calgarian Patrick Burns, so that William could concentrate on some other business interests he wanted to pursue.

As part of his dream of everyone in Calgary living a happy life, William Hull decided to build the Hull Opera House, Calgary’s first performing arts centre. He believed the centre would add to a better family life. Building of the theatre allowed Hull to learn about construction of large buildings.

In the early 1900’s William Roper Hull began construction of several buildings. One of his many real estate successes included Calgary’s first skyscraper, the Calgary Grain Exchange Building built in 1909, which still stands today as a historic building in downtown Calgary. All of these business successes earned William Roper Hull the financial flexibility that would allow him to further create his vision for Calgary.

According to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online, “W.R. Hull was a very capable businessman, who also had a keen sense of social responsibility.” It was not only Hull’s success as a businessman that made him a historical figure in Calgary. It was his work as a community leader and a philanthropist that created his legacy through social work that continues even today. William Roper Hull was dedicated to the well-being of children. Hull’s commitment was expressed not only financially but by giving his time.

In 1925, when Hull passed away, the *Calgary Herald* wrote, "A big man has passed away, one who has done more for Calgary than he is commonly credited with, and one whom Calgary can ill afford to lose". Upon his death, Hull left about eighty percent of his finances in trust. This money was to be used for the building of the children's home Hull envisioned. This led to the establishment of the Hull Agency for emotionally disturbed children and youth. Eventually this centre expanded to provide children and families with a wide range of services. Today, the Hull Agency continues to help the youth and families of Calgary and is known as Hull Child and Family Services.

Inspired by the work of William Roper Hull, I will pursue leadership through excellence in education allowing me to lead a successful life through which I am able to give back to my community by giving my time and financial resources. I would like to be successful so that I am able to help those that may be in need.

Imagine 2025. How do you envision Calgary in the future? "There will be a city of at least 2.5 million. I see all human beings having access to food, shelter and education and all people living a life of dignity and I will help to create it." These are my words.

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## FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure1:

[http://www.google.ca/search?q=william+roper+hull&hl=en&safe=off&qscrl=1&rlz=1T4ADSA\\_enCA407CA407&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ei=hTpKUemsKYjDrQGpioHwCg&ved=0CAcQ\\_AUoAQ&biw=830&bih=850](http://www.google.ca/search?q=william+roper+hull&hl=en&safe=off&qscrl=1&rlz=1T4ADSA_enCA407CA407&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ei=hTpKUemsKYjDrQGpioHwCg&ved=0CAcQ_AUoAQ&biw=830&bih=850)

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