

Mr. Alberta

"I'm a community person, I think in terms of community before individual. That's the essence of Albertans and to a large extent that's the essence of Canadians as well." ~Peter Lougheed

That's the kind of man former Premier of Alberta, Peter Lougheed was. He was always thinking about others, about our province, and about our nation. Lougheed always saw the good in others, and the potential our province had if we had the courage to bring it about. And that's exactly where he came in. Some say he transformed the province's economic and social structures, but others say that's an understatement.

Turn around and look at your surroundings in Alberta today. Everywhere, you can see the footprints and impacts that Peter has left behind. He took great risks in putting forth our economy by "introducing" the oil sands and allowing it to improve our economy. It led to where we are today economically, and gave Alberta something to be proud of. Peter Lougheed saw doctors, teachers, nurses, maids, anyone, as part of our big Alberta family. When he stood in line the entire night to ensure that a child had proper schooling rights, he showed us the importance of caring and understanding the needs of others and carrying out acts of selflessness. Lougheed's top priority after becoming premier was the Alberta Human Rights Act. His views on humanity helped increase the living conditions of many. Another thing that Lougheed was known for, was his view of Alberta. In his mind, he saw Alberta as a small, but just as important piece of a puzzle, that helped build Canada. The laws and "rules" he brought upon Alberta was well thought out to benefit our country. He brought family and togetherness to one piece of the puzzle and it spread through the country. Peter Lougheed also believed in proper education. He set up funds and fought for the right for any child to have the appropriate schooling that they deserved. His most stunning contribution to the public good were his leadership skills. He quickly led the Progressive Conservatives to win the provincial election and became premier in 1971. Lougheed was the first to lead the PC party to win seats in at least 40 years. Truly, Mr. Lougheed's thoughts, ideas, and initiatives have had a lasting effect on all Albertans.

Peter Lougheed has inspired me to be selfless, kind, and caring towards others; to care for our community, our province, our nation. He has led me to believe that if you can change one piece, you can change the rest. My admiration rises to his hardworking, perseverant way, and his optimism. His vision, balance and bridge-building view of the world has not only inspired me, but many others as well. I will help others in need and contribute positively to my community, in the belief that I am little by little impacting my city, my province and in a small, yet possible way, my country as well. Peter Lougheed has taught me to take leadership in my community and to own up to my full potential. Take risks out there, and don't get caught up in your mistakes or regrets. If Peter Lougheed can take away his own time and effort for the good of others, then so can I. When I volunteer or help out, I will think of the spirit that Peter Lougheed has shown us.

Everywhere, you can see the influence Peter Lougheed has brought upon Alberta. From hospitals, laws, human rights acts, economic developments, all the way to education funding, we can see how Lougheed helped shape not only Alberta, but Canada as well. One man changed the way

Albertans thought, the way we act, and the way we live today. May we always remember our Mr. Alberta, Peter Lougheed.