

Senator Patrick Burns

By Ella Jensen

Pat Burns was born in Oshawa, Ontario on July 6, 1856 to Bridget Gibson and Michael Byrne Burns, both Irish immigrants. He was the fourth of eleven children, where he grew up with very little education and barely any money. In 1878, Pat and his brother John began heading west to Manitoba. They arrived in Winnipeg and bought a homestead near Minnedosa. Together they embarked on a 250 kilometer journey on foot. Upon arriving, they realized they didn't have any machinery or equipment to work their new land, so they decided to go back to Winnipeg in search of jobs. Soon after, they found positions as labourers building the Canadian Pacific Railway. While homesteading for some time in Manitoba, Burns slowly became involved in buying and selling cattle and meat. Eventually, he had set up a small slaughterhouse in Calgary, supported by the construction of the railway. Very soon, Burns' small business grew to include meatpacking, meat trade, selling fruits, cheeses, and dairy products, As well he began to own and operate ranches and invest in oil production and mining. His company, P. Burns and Co. Ltd. was established in Calgary in 1890 and became an empire with large plants and operations. In 1996, his company was bought by Maple Leaf Foods.

In 1912, Burns became one of four members of Alberta's 'Big Four' cattlemen along with A. E. Cross, George Lane, and Archie McLean. Later that year they invested in starting the first Calgary Stampede promoted by Guy Weadick, which still runs today. In this same year, he owned and ran six huge cattle ranches and by his death in 1937,

Burns had owned or leased nineteen ranches in southern Alberta. He also owned grazing lands scattered all across three provinces and ran nearly 80 000 head of cattle. His ranches were so large he could travel from Cochrane to the Montana border without ever leaving his own land. Most of what is now South Calgary was his privately owned land, which includes the ranch the Burns Family owned the longest, the Bow Valley Ranch. It was owned for seven decades until it was sold to the Alberta Government to become part of Fish Creek Provincial Park. Burns used this property as a holding and sorting point for his cattle headed to packing and distribution factories.

On Burns' 75th birthday, Prime Minister R&B Bennett appointed him to the Canadian Senate as a representative of Alberta. This is when his impact on Western Canada was officially recognized.

All throughout his life, Burns was known for being a caring and kind person. He was a huge supporter of local children's charities and participated actively in the Catholic Church. He was one of the first to send money and give aid to those affected and injured in the Fernie fire of 1908, the Frank slide in 1903, and other disasters. Burns focused specifically on putting his money towards causes for children because he believed they are the most vulnerable. With one third of his estate, he created what is now the Burns Memorial Fund which still continues to provide funds to disadvantaged youth as well as families and children of police officers and firefighters. Along with this the brand for P.

Burns Ranches, Ltd. is a backward NL, which represents his ranch gates, which are 'Never Locked'.

How Senator Patrick Burns influences me to be a 'champion ' is how resilient he was to the challenges presented to him. He took them head first and didn't turn down a chance to help someone in need, He also didn 't let money and fortune make him forget where he came from, leading him to support youth. Burns taught us that with courage and a positive mindset, you can do anything you dream of, He never stopped when things got difficult, he powered through and soared higher than anyone ever expected, way beyond his goals. I think the contribution Pat Burns had and still has on what Alberta has become today is truly remarkable. He was a huge building block in creating Alberta's economy because when you think of Alberta, you can think of everything Pat Burns did, As well as the legacy through his charities and memorial funds that still run today He was a true pioneer. This inspires me to give when I can and not be afraid to take a chance, in addition to leaving something positive behind for future Albertans.

Sources <https://south.abhf.ca/inductees/patrick-pat-burns.html>

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Smoke From The Branding Fire : Hank Pallister's Tales/Hank Pallister with Joyce

Pallister. 2nd revised edition

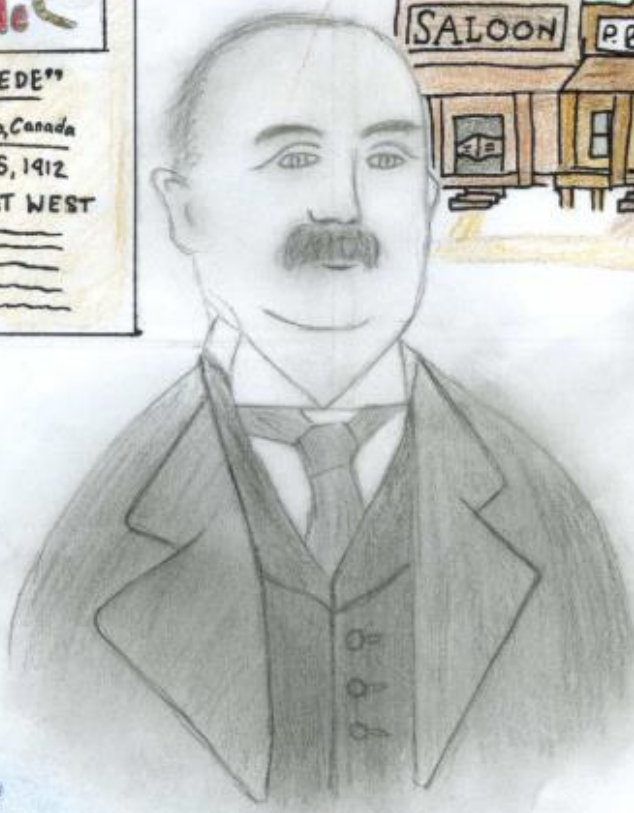
I also visited the Bow Valley Ranche Historic Site in Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary.

SENATOR PATRICK BURNS

Calgary Stampede

"THE STAMPEDE"
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
SEPT. 2, 3, 4 and 5, 1912
THE LAST GREAT WEST

\$20,000.00	_____
In Cash	_____
Also	_____



1856-1937