

# Alberta Champion Writing Contest

## Champion: Ernest Charles Manning

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In the morning when I heard birds chirping, I looked around the community and I saw things that could change around me. I always wondered if there was a way that I could help improve things in where I live or even all around Alberta. I thought that I could voice my ideas to improve my local area in my writing. Later that day, my mom knocked on my door and asked me, "Do you think this is a challenge for you?" I looked up to my mom and I found my chance to share my writing piece, but I still needed to pick someone that inspired me to help my community. I came across a writing contest. Interesting! I had a quick thought. After much skimming and searching, the person I chose, Ernest Charles Manning, was considered a leader and he cared a lot for Alberta.

There are some interesting milestones about him. He was born on September 20, 1908 on a farm in Saskatchewan then moved to Calgary. There, he was one the first few students to go to the William Aberhart Calgary Prophetic Bible Institution in 1927 that opened in 1927 and he graduated in 1930. He became the eighth Alberta Premier at the age of 34 for an astonishing 25 years from 1943 to 1968 making him one of the longest serving Premier in Canada's history.

As a premier, Manning continued to build our society's strength. From 1929 to 1939 was when a lot of poverty happened and businesses shut down, Premier Manning and William Aberhart launched the Social Credit party to help relieve financial stress from Albertans suffering from the Great Depression. Between 1947 and 48, Alberta was a major oil producing province in Canada after oil discoveries in Leduc and Redwater that brought revenue. He built strong community services, cultural institutions and infrastructure for Alberta. He created enough revenue to legislate free healthcare for senior citizens of Alberta.

He contributed to my community in many different ways. A lot of people discouraged him from investing into Alberta's oil sand because the Abasand plant burned down many times already. Others doubt that it would be a good idea due to the many technical problems and the difficulty of extracting the bitumen out of the ground. He was not discouraged and he believed that oil sands could increase the income for the province significantly. With the help from J. Howard Pew, the Great Canadian Oil Sands filed for a commercial oil sands project in 1962 that was first ever built. Using the royalty from oil sands development, he established free hospital care for the senior citizens as healthcare can be expensive for them in the 1960's. Most seniors in that era lived in poverty and were easily susceptible to diseases. From his beliefs to his government policies supporting oil sands development, his contribution has greatly impacted our community. Thanks to him, today we still have free health care and this concept has spread all around Canada.

He has influenced me because he shows great traits that a leader should have. His way of running a community has encouraged me to follow what he did. There are a lot of good qualities which makes him a person that stands out to me.

First, the lesson I have learned from him is about problem solving. Premier Manning demonstrates a strong leadership mindset and skill when he comes across a problem. A lot of people discouraged investing

into oil sands but he convinced people to trust him on making incredible wealth. He hired Sidney Robert Clair to make a feasibility report to present to his government. With the report, many Albertans let him start the project. When they found out his theory was proven to be right, they could count on him if he raised ideas. He focused on creating job opportunities for Albertans during the Great Depression. With the oil sands, he proved his government could use the revenue from royalties to provide dividends and free health care.

Second, I have learned teamwork from him. Whenever he has an idea to help the community, he works with expert people and listens to their perspectives to gather more information before making a final decision. When he runs parties, he has a team that can help back him up if there are any problems. Having that thinking of working with members can support you if you want to raise awareness of your idea.

Third, I have learned from him about foresight. He knows what is important for gaining economic strength for the province. He recommended oil sands which was a game changer for Alberta. He took advantage of Athabasca, Cold Lake and Peace River where there are a large amount of oil sands. They are important because they can be made into petroleum products which are made into a lot of everyday stuff people use such as skincare, gas for cars and many more. The core-value things can help develop economics which bring the revenue to deal with problems of community in a faster way.

Last but not least important to my memory when I was reading about him, it was about his compassion. He cared for people. Most outcomes for his projects benefited the people. He ran the Social Credit party focusing to help bring financial relief after the Great Depression. His party helped create more jobs for people during that time period and gave a \$25 dividend for struggling individuals. His party supported businesses and created more jobs in the 1920s. I have realized that to be a good leader, aiding people in a community can make positive outcomes because people and society are elements to build stable foundations for a country.

By his influence on me, as a Canadian Citizen, I also think about my community in Edmonton where I am living currently. I have been researching some problems in Alberta. I came across health care issues. A concern is, there is a lack of doctors to treat sick people especially in the rural areas like Raymond, Picture Butte, Pincher Creek, Blairmore, Claresholm, Vulcan, Banff in the Southern part of Alberta, St. Paul, Fort Macleod, and Mayerthorpe in the Northern parts of Alberta. People have to wait for a long time before they can talk to the doctor. Most doctors are focused in the larger cities like Edmonton and Calgary. So I have some suggestions to improve on it.

Incentive program like internship for experience while subsidising living cost during the internship: My idea is to find more nurses and doctors in Universities and have them do part time jobs in the countryside. To encourage them to continue doing it, they could have school internships or minor salaries to help with busy doctors in cities with a lot of people. They could switch to different places in 4 to 6 weeks to have more experience in numerous towns and most important is to help them gain experience to become better at their job.

According to the Alberta Medical Association, some doctors are moving to different locations to work because they are not getting a high enough salary. A solution is to increase their salary or give them more medical benefits. For example, they could get discounts on treatment or medical procedures for their diagnosed conditions. They could get a better retirement plan like increasing the amount of money being gained in the pension.

I have always been in awe of Ernest Manning and I dreamed of pursuing a career inspired by his way of thinking. He has made a sizable impact that made him an important historical figure in Canada. His journey through his long career fascinated me. He was a role model to me because sometimes I can't think of the solutions that he demonstrated. I know my suggestions above will take some time to be spread-ed but I hope I can build funding for it when I grow up.

### *Resource:*

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest\\_Manning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Manning)
2. <https://albertachampions.org/Champions/manning-honourable-ernest-c-1908-1996/>
3. <https://www.alberta.ca/aoc-ernest-manning>
4. [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/articles/Ernest\\_Manning](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/articles/Ernest_Manning)
5. <https://history.alberta.ca/energyheritage/sands/mega-projects/setting-the-stage/ernest-manning.aspx#:~:text=During%20the%20tenure%20of%20Ernest,of%20Canada's%20oil%2Dproducing%20provinces.>
6. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/opinion-alberta-family-medicine-doctor-shortage-1.6814051>
7. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/opinion-alberta-medical-schools-expanding-doctor-shortage-1.6771282#:~:text=Calgary%C2%B7Opinion-,Graduating%20more%20Alberta%20doctors%20is%20just%20what%20the%20medical%20system,vital%20investment%20for%20the%20future.>
8. [https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/southern-alberta-medical-program-help-ease-physician-shortage#:~:text=The%20Southern%20Alberta%20Medical%20Program%20\(SAMP\)%2C%20a%20partnership%20between,alongside%20other%20health%2Dcare%20professionals](https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/southern-alberta-medical-program-help-ease-physician-shortage#:~:text=The%20Southern%20Alberta%20Medical%20Program%20(SAMP)%2C%20a%20partnership%20between,alongside%20other%20health%2Dcare%20professionals)

### **OUTLINE**

## **OPENING**

- Who: The honourable Ernest Charles Manning
  - Where: Calgary
  - When: Premier from May 31, 1943 - December 12, 1968
  - Why: He created a significant impact for Alberta and for me, inspiring evangelist and a strong leader of Alberta
  - What for: Engage people and youth to become a leader, help community and country
- NOTES: I have to have a concern in my community that relates to My champion. Intro: have to talk about why i wrote this writing piece

## **BODY**

### **1. Bio basic**

- Birth of Date: September 20, 1908. was born in Saskatchewan in 1908 and was raised on a farm.
  - Positions: Manning became premier at age 34, served as premier for an unprecedented 25 years 8th premier of Alberta. A co-founder of the province's Social Credit party, he served between 1943 and 1968, longer than any premier in Alberta's history and longer than any premier in Canadian history aside from Nova Scotia's George Henry Murray. At one point, Manning was the longest continually serving democratically elected official in the world.
  - Where did he work: 1. preaching on Aberhart's weekly Back to the Bible Hour radio program, had a large listening audience.
    - 2. Politics as Aberhart's right-hand man, they launched the Social Credit party, financial relief to Albertans suffering, because of the Great Depression
    - 3. After becoming premier, Alberta became Canada's major oil-producing province following the discovery of the Leduc field in 1947 and the Redwater field in 1948, established a regulatory framework for the oil and gas industry and used the revenue from these resources to build strong social services, cultural institutions and infrastructure (construction) in the province. In 1947, his government legislated free hospital and medical care for senior citizens. In 1949, he wrote off \$113 million of the province's debt, and he continued to build the economic strength of Alberta
    - 4. Laid the foundation of a modern education, health care and social services system while rebuilding post-depression Alberta into an economic powerhouse.
- Awards: first Member of the Order of Excellence of Alberta 1981  
His book: A Challenge to Thoughtful Canadians  
Calgary, Edmonton. Education: Manning enrolled in Aberhart's Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute in 1927 and became the first graduate of that institution.

## **2.What did he do for the community**

- established free hospital care for elders and people
- introduced oil sands as a source of wealth for Alberta building strong social services
- Manning, however, was not dissuaded since he was convinced that the oil sands would grant the province incredible wealth
- filed an application for a commercial oil sands project in Canada in 1962, the first-ever constructed.

## **3.Outcome**

## **4.How does he influence on you**

How his work influenced me or make me interested in him

## **5.what will I do to help the community**

- Health care problems: a lot of people are getting sick and lack doctors or nurses to help. They get low paying salaries or protesting, striking. Not enough doctors in rural areas.
- Where can find doctors and nurses: college, universities, health care service learning center. About 312 people graduate from university Calgary and alberta
- How many people work in this industry:
- Solution: Doctors in universities, will go to practice camp in rural areas for about 4 to 6 weeks as practice and help with other busy doctors. Increase salaries+benefits and promotions tuition fee or minor salaries.

## **CONCLUSION**

Other notes:

Medical care: more demand for medical care, financial stress for the people, limited health care in rural areas of alberta