

Biography of Abdul-Salam Abougouche



Abdul-Salam Abougouche was born in Lala, Lebanon in 1934. He was the proud son of Mohamed and Ghazali Abougouche. At the age of 20, with a mere ten dollars in his pocket, Abdul-Salam migrated to Canada in aspirations of a promising future.

He came to Lac La Biche in the mid-fifties and fell in love with its beauty and people. Lac La Biche became the home for Abdul-Salam until his death in 1991, where Lac La Biche also became his final resting place.

At the age of 34, Abdul-Salam Abougouche briefly returned to Lebanon and married his wife Naamat in 1970. Together, they raised a family of six children in the cherished town. They had five daughters and one son: Hanan, Samia, Mona, Noha, Sabah and Yussiff.

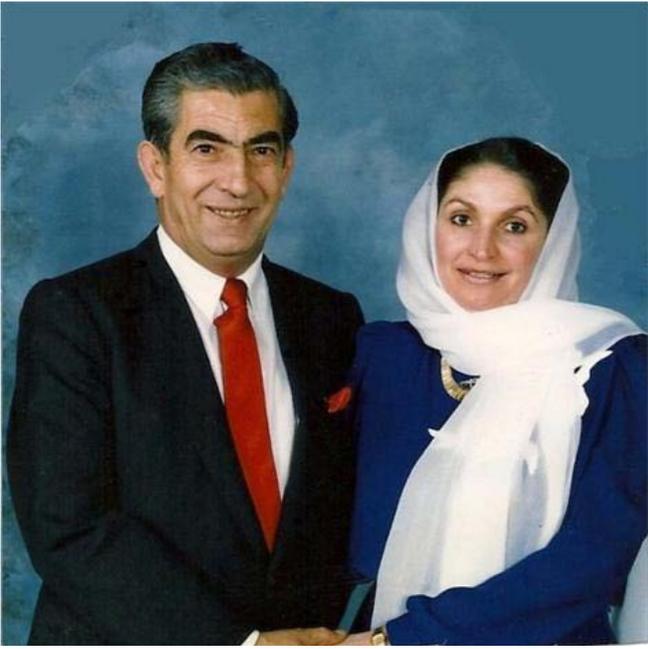
Upon his arrival in Lac La Biche, Abdul-Salam operated a local mink ranch. As the mink ranch industry faded, Abdul-Salam was a proud owner of the Lac La Biche M&M General Store, which later converted to Mayfair Foods, and finally to an IGA Food Store.

Among other local duties, Abdul-Salam was also a member of the Lac La Biche Chamber of Commerce.

Although successful as an entrepreneur, Abdul-Salam's vision was beyond the mere value of wealth. His visions and dreams were concentrated on building close family ties and to the structuring of a strong community. His love was evident in his generosity and ongoing contributions to the betterment of the community.

During his lifetime in Lac La Biche, Abdul-Salam was an active Muslim Association President. He was also a part of the Islamic Community that led to the construction of the Lac La Biche Mosque.

Abdul-Salam was a very faithful, loyal and respectful man. He has left his mark as a charismatic, charming, and loving individual, with all ages and all walks of life. It is without a doubt that his contributions and loving memories will remain treasured by his family and community. May he rest in peace.



Abdul-Salam with wife Naamat



Abdul-Salam at the IGA store



Abdul-Salam with fellow pioneer Ameen Abougoush