



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

June 17, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

As I wrote in my April 12, 2021, letter, Alberta intends to hold elections for Senate nominees on October 18, 2021, in conjunction with Alberta's municipal elections. I requested that in light of the Senate nominee election, you refrain from filling the two Senate vacancies until Albertans have had the chance to democratically elect their own preferred nominees.

I am writing to reiterate this request on behalf of Albertans. On June 15, 2021, the Alberta legislature passed the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Prime Minister to respect the democratic voices of Albertans and refrain from filling Alberta's two vacant Senate seats until Albertans have an opportunity to elect nominees for appointment to the Senate on October 18, 2021, and further urge the Prime Minister to commit to filling the two vacant Senate seats with those individuals who received the highest number of votes in that Senate election.

Alberta has held elections for Senate nominees regularly since 1989, electing a total of 10 nominees in four elections, with five of those nominees ultimately being selected to serve as Senators including current independent Senators Douglas Black and Scott Tannas. Albertans confirmed to our Fair Deal Panel that pursuing the appointment of Senators who have been chosen by the people of Alberta remains a priority for them.

We understand that constitutionally, Senate nominations remain a prerogative of the federal government, but due to Alberta's long-standing practice of holding Senate nominee elections, and the respect which these elections have been shown by previous federal governments, I request that you honour this Alberta convention and agree to nominate the candidates selected by Albertans themselves.

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I would like to add that the Supreme Court of Canada *Senate Reference* of 2014 does not preclude the federal government from appointing a Senator who has been through a provincial nomination process.

I am open to discussing with you further how the Alberta Senate nominee elections could work in conjunction with the federal nomination process to ensure alignment of our respective processes.

I look forward to your co-operation with and support for this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Kenney', is written over a faint, light blue rectangular stamp or watermark.

Hon Jason Kenney PC MLA
Premier of Alberta