



Premier of Alberta

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

November 9, 2022

The Honourable Sonya Savage
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Government of Alberta

Dear Minister Savage,

I want to thank you for your service to Albertans, and congratulations on your new role as Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Our Cabinet faces an extraordinary task: to deliver on a clear and bold mandate in a limited period of time. Albertans are counting on us, and they rightfully expect their government to address the challenges they are facing with our full attention and action.

First, I ask you to keep the inflation and affordability crisis top of mind. Affordability is the primary challenge facing Albertans today, and as a government we will ensure that Alberta families are able to manage through this storm by taking decisive action in the coming weeks and months.

Second, our Cabinet must continue to have a laser focus on job creation and strengthening Alberta's economy. No matter what the industry, we must continue the good work of diversifying our economy through job creation to ensure all Albertans and their families can prosper.

Third, the challenges facing our healthcare system mean Albertans are not getting the necessary care they need when and where they need it. We will ensure all areas of the province receive prompt and efficient ambulance service. Our government will also act quickly to bring substantive improvements to emergency room services and clear surgical backlogs.

Finally, I expect our Cabinet to remain united and determined in the face of a federal government that no longer treats its partners in Confederation as equals. We must proactively protect Albertans from continued federal government overreach, including hostile economic policies that landlock our provincial resources, that chase billions in investment and thousands of jobs from our province, and that are detrimental to the short-term and long-term prosperity of Albertans.

While we may face challenges, I nonetheless have full confidence that our government can and will address these matters to secure a province that remains a safe haven for those seeking economic opportunity, prosperity, and freedom.

Under your leadership as Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, I expect you to work closely with your Cabinet and caucus colleagues and the public service through the

committee, Cabinet, and legislative processes to deliver on commitments to support Albertans, including:

- Develop a made-in-Alberta climate strategy and stand up for Alberta's jurisdiction to manage our resources as it relates to the federal government's climate plan.
- Under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*, continue establishing new land use plans and reviewing existing land use plans.
- Work to implement the Coal Policy Committee recommendations to continue the statutorily-required review of existing land-use plans.
- Work with industry to improve criteria for assessing proper reclamation by exploring options with all relevant stakeholders and balancing the need for industry to reduce liabilities while ensuring that landowners, municipalities, and Indigenous peoples are satisfied with reclamation efforts and that surface lease payments are maintained, where applicable.
- Work with the Minister of Energy to develop a plan to improve reclamation certificate issuance and bring reclamation requirements for renewable energy sources in line with the rest of the energy sector.
- Develop a government wide Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy to demonstrate Alberta's world class ESG credentials in order to gain and maintain the confidence of investors and to ensure that jobs in Alberta are created and defended.
- Support technology and innovation through the Technology, Innovation and Emissions Reduction program.
- Work with the Minister of Energy to support emissions reduction strategies that encourage technological innovation and replacement of higher-emitting fuels in Asia with environmentally responsible Alberta energy.

Your deputy minister and other senior officials in your ministry will support these priorities with the highest standard of professionalism and integrity. Alberta's public service will provide you with non-partisan advice and loyal implementation of your mandate. As I mentioned, our ability to support Albertans in the coming months will require you to work respectfully with your officials, and often with tight timelines.

I expect all ministers and their staff to conduct themselves in all matters with the highest standards of integrity and ethical behaviour. I expect you to be aware of, and to be fully compliant with, Alberta's *Conflicts of Interest Act*, and that all ministers will protect the significant trust that Albertans have placed in our government.

We will come through this difficult and challenging period in Alberta's history, so let us work together to fulfill and exceed our mandate on behalf of the good people of this great province. I am honoured to be working with you to build a stronger and more prosperous Alberta.

Thank you,



Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta