November 9, 2022

The Honourable Jason Luan
Minister of Culture

Dear Minister Luan,

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

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 aren’t 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 Culture, 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:
• Promote and celebrate Alberta’s unique cultural identity and heritage.
• As lead, work with the Minister of Infrastructure, to outline a strategy to invest in our cultural and heritage sites, and to ensure Albertans and international visitors experience Alberta’s unique heritage at a world-class level.
• As lead, work with the Minister of Infrastructure to develop a building naming policy that celebrates and exemplifies Alberta’s culture.
• Ensure the Alberta Foundation for the Arts places priority on Alberta artists, art, and cultural materials.
• As lead, work with the Minister of Technology and Innovation and Jobs, Economy and Northern development to continue growing Alberta’s cultural industries during the next decade, including focusing on Alberta made productions and supporting Alberta producers and companies in developing Alberta content.
• As lead, work with Children’s Services, to focus on affordable access to sport and recreation opportunities by improving the health and wellbeing of Alberta youth and families through continued support of sport, physical activity and recreation programming.
• Continue to support and engage with the Alberta Francophone community.
• Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Status of Women Tanya Fir to support women’s participation in Alberta’s economy including continued support of women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields where they are underrepresented.
• Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Status of Women, and the Ministers of Public Safety and Emergency Services and Seniors, Community and Social Services to focus on a strategy to support victims of domestic violence.

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