



Premier of Alberta

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

November 10, 2022

The Honourable Pete Guthrie  
Minister of Energy  
Government of Alberta

Dear Minister Guthrie,

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

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 Energy, 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:

- Defend Alberta's energy interests against federal overreach through a variety of means, including use of the Sovereignty Act if necessary.
- Work with industry to develop a pathway for the implementation of carbon technology to support their goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Leverage the entrepreneurial spirit of Albertans to help unlock energy exploration opportunities with the goal of creating jobs and increasing investment opportunities to further Alberta's economic prosperity.
- Continue to support hydrogen, helium, lithium, liquefied natural gas, geothermal, and mineral development in our province.
- Work with other provinces to further develop small modular reactor technology and pave the way for its usage and generation in oil sands operations.
- Develop a pilot program to effectively incentivize reclamation of inactive legacy oil and natural gas sites and enable future drilling.
- As the lead, work with the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas and the Minister of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism to support emissions reduction strategies that encourage technological innovation and replacement of higher-emitting fuels in Asia with environmentally responsible Alberta energy.
- Work with Alberta Energy Regulator to improve and modernize processes around the new Liability Management Framework, project approvals and transfer of well sites in a timely fashion.
- Work with the Minister of Intergovernmental Relations and the Minister of Justice to develop a strategic alliance with other provinces to deal with issues such as climate policy and federal intrusions into provincial jurisdiction.
- Work with the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, who is the lead, 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.
- Work with the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, who is the lead, to conduct an analysis into Alberta's carbon sink capacity (i.e., forest, fescue, soil, etc.) to establish a true understanding of Alberta's position in relation to carbon neutrality.
- Work collaboratively with Alberta First Nations and the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, who is the lead, to further Indigenous opportunities via economic corridors, including to northern British Columbia, Churchill, the Great Lakes and the Arctic.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danielle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

Danielle Smith  
Premier of Alberta