



Premier of Alberta

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

November 14, 2022

The Honourable Nicholas Milliken  
Minister of Mental Health and Addiction  
Government of Alberta

Dear Minister Milliken,

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

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 Mental Health and Addiction, 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:

- As the lead, continue to develop Alberta's recovery-oriented system of care for mental health and addiction working collaboratively with the Ministers of Education, Seniors and Community and Social Services, Indigenous Relations, Children's Services, Public Safety and Emergency Services, and Justice to ensure consistency across the Government of Alberta.
- As the lead, expand access for young people struggling with severe mental illness.
- Ensure that recovery and increasing the recovery capital of Albertans is the primary policy for the ministry and allied authorities.
- Continue implementing the 8000 spaces initiative for the Mental Health and Addiction system.
- Operationalize six new recovery communities in key locations throughout the province.
- Develop electronic information gathering systems to ensure that system outcomes are standardized and transparent, and focused on recovery-based outcomes.
- In cooperation with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, who is the lead, bring forward to Cabinet in Fall 2022 recommendations on effective treatment referral pathways for people with mental health and addiction issues within the criminal justice system.
- In cooperation with the Ministers of Justice and Seniors and Community and Social Services, bring forward to Cabinet recommendations in the spring of 2023 to improve interventions for Albertans with addiction who may be a danger to themselves and others.
- As the lead, in collaboration with the Minister of Children's Services implement Recovery Community Centres for youth in major centres throughout the Province.
- Conducting a review of expenditures within AHS regarding mental health and addiction and make recommendations for alignment with recovery-oriented systems of care.
- In cooperation with the Minister of Indigenous Relations, supporting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people and communities by establishing a continuum of addiction and mental health services, ensuring service provision is not disrupted by jurisdictional disputes, and increasing access to services to manage the impact of Indian Residential Schools on mental health.

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 style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Danielle Smith  
Premier of Alberta