



Premier of Alberta

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

November 9, 2022

The Honourable Mickey Amery  
Minister of Children's Services

Dear Minister Amery,

I want to thank you for your service to Albertans, and congratulations on your new role as Minister of Children's Services.

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 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 Children's Services, 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:

- Build upon the strategies in MLA Searle Turton's Private Member's Bill, to ensure a less arduous and more efficient adoption process for Alberta families.
- Help Alberta parents by ensuring more transparency and accountability for unlicensed day homes, and explore ways to incentivize unlicensed day homes to become licensed and to increase training.
- Conduct a review of the foster care system with a view to reducing the number of moves and minimizing disruption during a child's time in care, and make it easier for foster parents to adopt children to provide continuity of care.
- Continue to work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations on engagement with the Government of Canada and with Alberta communities on the implementation of Bill C-92 to ensure the interests of Alberta's Indigenous children are protected.
- Work with the Minister of Affordability and Utilities to continue promote affordable and accessible child care for parents by ensuring the equitable inclusion and incentivization of both private and not-for-profit child care operators in our mixed-market child care system, and by reducing unnecessary red tape and administrative costs for all providers.
- Work with the Minister of Culture to create more opportunities for children and youth to have improved access to cultural, sporting, artistic, and other recreational activities.

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 will 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, appearing to read 'Danielle Smith', written in a cursive style.

Danielle Smith  
Premier of Alberta