



Premier of Alberta

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

November 9, 2022

The Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education

Dear Minister,

I want to thank you for your service to Albertans, and for your continued service as Minister of Education.

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 Education, 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:

- Work with Mental Health and Addictions to continue to expand and provide additional supports to school divisions and families to address gaps in mental health and wellness support for our youth.
- Explore short-term and long-term strategies to address the need to add a significant number of educational assistants in our classrooms to address learning loss and the increasing complexity of learning needs.
- Work with the Minister of Infrastructure develop a proposal to significantly increase the number of schools in our growing communities.
- Ensure Alberta is continuing to attract and retain the most qualified teachers in the country.
- Work with the Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions on the Career Education Task Force with a focus on transforming Alberta's career education programming to be more responsive to the needs of our current and future workforce while also highlighting the opportunities available through polytechnic education.
- Continue to bring more collegiate schools online across the province to create pathways for students to post-secondary or their chosen fields in the workforce.
- Increase the pace of the cross-ministry work between the Ministries of Education; Health; Mental Health and Addictions; Seniors, Community and Social Services; Children's Services; and Justice by focusing on clear and uncomplicated points of entry for children with special needs and their families.
- Pursue opportunities and strategies to address transportation cost pressures and ride times for school boards and families.
- Continue to support parental choice throughout our education system.
- Work with Health to evaluate whether there is a need to expand supports for qualified professionals, such as speech language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and psychologists.

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.

As such, 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 prominent initial 'D'.

Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta