



Premier of Alberta

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

November 14, 2022

The Honourable Travis Toews
President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Government of Alberta

Dear Minister Toews,

I want to thank you for your service to Albertans, and for your continued service as President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

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 President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, 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:

- Prepare Budget 2023-24 to ensure budget priorities for the coming fiscal year strike the right balance between ensuring increases to operational spending are kept at or below inflation plus population growth (using the prior year's actual data), and ensuring that an appropriate amount of the projected surplus is dedicated to debt reduction, savings, infrastructure and the affordability pressures Albertans are struggling with due primarily to the Liberal-NDP caused inflation crisis.
- Work with Cabinet and caucus to develop a new fiscal framework and surplus strategy that balances sustainable debt reduction, savings and infrastructure investment while addressing inflationary and other affordability pressures.
- Ensure that a budget bucket for in-year spending is dedicated to the priority projects identified by the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors and Minister of Infrastructure.
- Review and provide recommendations regarding an Alberta Pension Plan that will increase pension benefits for seniors and reduce premiums for workers.
- Review and provide recommendations regarding an Alberta Revenue Agency to collect all Alberta taxes including personal income taxes.
- Continue to work collaboratively with our allies in other provinces on reforming equalization and transferring tax points from the federal to provincial government.
- Work with the Minister of Affordability and Utilities, who is the lead, to prepare and implement a package of inflation relief measures aimed to address affordability and cost of living concerns of Albertans through this difficult time of financial uncertainty and inflation.
- Work with the Minister of Energy, who is the lead, to advance LNG and Hydrogen initiatives in the province.

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