



Premier of Alberta

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

November 9, 2022

The Honourable Mike Ellis  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services  
Government of Alberta

Dear Minister Ellis,

I want to thank you for your service to Albertans, and congratulations on your new role as Minister of Public Safety and Emergency 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 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 Public Safety and Emergency 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:

- Position Alberta as a role model for safe and secure communities across the country and North America.
- Make mental health and addictions recovery a central component to effective community policing and corrections. This will involve working across jurisdictional and ministerial boundaries as collaboration will be needed with other departments, municipalities, police services, and community based organizations.
- Continue the creation and expansion of therapeutic living units at corrections facilities to help facilitate treatment and recovery for inmates.
- Review the education and training curriculum for sheriffs with a view to bringing skills into alignment so sheriffs can assist in a broader scope of policing.
- Work with the Minister of Justice, as the lead, and Municipal Affairs to launch an Alberta Police Service (APS).
- Support the alignment of the APS with mental health and addiction crisis response resources, including safe transportation of patients and access to health services, in cooperation with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.
- Work collaboratively with federal counterparts to halt the illegal importation and flow of firearms.
- Work with Indigenous, mid-sized, and rural communities to find solutions to address rising crime rates in these areas.
- As the lead, work with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to begin to establish a regional approach to policing in Alberta which includes work with municipalities and local law enforcement agencies to ensure a sharing of services, data and communications is in place to lead to improved outcomes for both released offenders and the public.
- Bring forward modernization and reform to Indigenous policing programs to address chronic underfunding and gaps within the system.
- Integrate Search and Rescue and Rescue Dive teams into emergency response and develop a more effective approach for deployment and funding these services.
- Introduce emergency management measures that will ensure preparedness to address any natural disaster or required emergency response is available anywhere in the province.
- As the lead, work with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism to develop a flood and fire mitigation strategy to proactively protect communities at risk of future natural disasters.

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, 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 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