



Premier of Alberta

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

July 6, 2023

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for your service to this government and congratulate you on your new role as Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Our diverse Cabinet is made up of talented and experienced leaders and I am proud to share with you our responsibility to fulfill the mandate given to us by Albertans. We all love this beautiful province and want the best for our families and our future. Over the next four years, we will take clear and decisive action to grow and diversify our economy while ensuring our health, education and other core social programs are world-class.

I have full confidence that our team will build on our solid foundation of stability, informed decision-making, and good governance to improve the lives of Albertans and help our province realize its potential.

Our agriculture sector is not only one of Alberta's most important economic drivers, it also forms part of the very fibre of our province's history and culture.

Under your leadership as Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, 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 our election platform commitments to support Albertans, including expanding the Feeder Assistance Loan Guarantee to \$3 million to support Alberta producers as they feed our country and compete in the global economy.

In addition, I expect you to work on several ongoing and new initiatives to promote and grow our agricultural sector, including:

- Advocating on behalf of Alberta farmers and ranchers by promoting Alberta agriculture and pushing back against policies passed by other jurisdictions that hinder the sector.
- Promoting the newly passed agrifood tax credit with a view to accelerating international and domestic business attraction and investment.
- Working to reduce barriers to interprovincial trade of meat products.
- Continuing work towards a customs pre-clearance process for the export of Alberta agricultural products.



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- Completing ongoing irrigation modernization commitments and exploring options for additional investment in the optimization and expansion of irrigation and water storage infrastructure in the province.
- Exploring ways to encourage increased nitrogen production in our petrochemical sector to reduce costs and improve availability of fertilizer for Alberta farmers.
- Exploring options to address opportunities identified in the Beef Competitiveness Study to improve Alberta beef-producer competitiveness.
- Exploring options to support entry and succession in our primary agriculture sector.
- Working with Jobs, Economy and Trade, assist in designing a ministry-specific job-attraction strategy to raise the awareness of young Albertans (aged 16 to 24), and adults changing careers, of the skilled trades and professions available in each economic sector, including pathways for education, apprenticeship, and training.

I direct you to work closely with the public service, including your Deputy Minister and other senior officials in your ministry, to support the priorities outlined in this letter, with the highest standard of professionalism, integrity, and creativity.

I also expect you to regularly and proactively reach out to all ministry-related stakeholders to take feedback and identify potential solutions to issues of importance to them, including finding ways our government can reduce burdensome and unnecessary red tape and barriers that are hurting their ability to grow the economy and improve the quality of life for the Albertans they serve.

Together with you and our Caucus and Cabinet colleagues, I look forward to serving all Albertans to ensure our province remains one of the best places on earth to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Smith

Premier of Alberta