



Premier of Alberta

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

August 1, 2023

The Honourable Mickey Amery
Minister of Justice

Dear Minister:

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

Our Cabinet is made up of talented, diverse, 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.

Under your leadership as Minister of Justice, 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 the following initiatives for Albertans:

- As lead, working with the Minister of Health and Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, to assess proposed federal medical assistance in dying legislation amendments to include those with mental health conditions and recommend Alberta's regulation of the profession with regard to it.
- Reviewing the *Elections Act*, the *Local Authorities Election Act*, *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* and other relevant election-related legislation and making recommendations that ensure election results are publicly available on a more timely basis on voting day to strengthen public trust in and the integrity of our provincial and municipal elections, including improving the investigation and enforcement of election rules before and during election periods.
- Reviewing recent Ethics Commissioner decisions and the *Conflicts of Interest Act* to establish guidelines and rules clarifying appropriate interactions between all ministries and the Justice Minister and Attorney General, and make recommendations that strengthen overall transparency and accountability. Further, implementing the Ethics Commissioner's recommendation regarding mandatory governance training for new Members of the Legislative Assembly so they understand the *Conflicts of Interest Act* and how it applies to them.



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- Reviewing the Public Health Emergencies Governance Review Panel's findings, when released, with affected ministries and advising to Cabinet and Caucus which recommendations should be implemented to improve Alberta's emergency governance in the future.
- Conducting a review of provincial resourcing to the courts and advancing related recommendations, including implementing remote court applications, digitization, and streamlining family court matters to ensure more affordable and efficient access to the courts.
- Continuing the constitutional challenge against the federal government's decision to label plastics as "toxic substances."
- Continuing the constitutional challenge against the federal *Impact Assessment Act*.
- Working through all available political and legal channels to eliminate the federal government's consumer carbon tax.
- As the lead, addressing the need for funding increases to strengthen Alberta's justice system and make it more accessible, including legal aid.
- Working with the Minister of Energy and Minerals, who is the lead, and the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, to review the mission, policies, and operations of the Canadian Energy Centre to ensure alignment with government priorities and policy.
- Working with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, develop and implement a strategy to ensure violent criminals and gang members are detained and effectively prosecuted.
- Working collaboratively with the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, who is the lead, develop compassionate intervention legislation, supporting facilities and legal processes to save the lives of those that are a danger to themselves or others.
- Working with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, develop a specialized prosecution unit to address deteriorating safety in Alberta's major urban centres.

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 in order to take feedback and identify potential solutions on issues of importance to them, including finding ways our government can reduce burdensome and unnecessary red tape and



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barriers that are hurting their members' ability to grow the economy and improve 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