



Premier of Alberta

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

August 4, 2023

The Honourable Ric McIver
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for your service to this government and congratulations on your new role as Minister of Municipal Affairs.

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 Municipal Affairs, 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 platform commitment to, in cooperation with the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, who is the lead, contribute up to \$330 million towards road and bridge construction, LRT connection, site utilities, site reclamation and other supportive infrastructure to support the Calgary arena and entertainment district project. This funding includes up to \$30 million for a new 1,000-seat community arena neighbouring the main arena that will serve youth and amateur hockey.

In addition, I expect you to deliver on further initiatives overseen by your ministry including:

- Working with municipalities and local businesses to benchmark, measure and reduce the time it takes to approve permits to create a more attractive business investment environment.
- Continuing to monitor the Calgary and Edmonton Metropolitan Region Boards to ensure they are serving the needs of their urban and rural residents effectively



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and fairly without unnecessarily interfering with the autonomy of small and mid-sized municipalities.

- Continuing to improve the delivery of stable, predictable funding through the Local Government Fiscal Framework.
- As lead, collaborating with the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, and Minister of Affordability and Utilities, and informed by on-the-ground municipal realities, developing appropriate incentives and benchmarks to significantly reduce municipal approval times for housing and business park developments.
- Protecting the province's constitutional right to oversee the governance of Alberta's municipalities without federal interference.
- Maintaining and building relationships of trust, partnership and open dialogue with municipal leaders across the province, and bringing feedback and solutions from these discussions with municipal leaders to Caucus and Cabinet for timely consideration and action.
- Teaming with the Minister of Energy and Minerals, who is lead, to ensure our government's new policy on making wellsite transfers contingent on payment of outstanding property taxes is implemented and enforced.
- In collaboration with the Minister of Justice, reviewing the *Local Authorities Election Act*, and making recommendations for any necessary amendments to strengthen public trust in and the integrity of our municipal election laws.
- Working with the Minister of Education and the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, reviewing the feasibility of amending the Education Property Tax to assist municipalities with retaining more funding for local priorities.

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 barriers that are hurting their members' ability to grow the economy and improve quality of life for the Albertans they serve.



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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 style with a large initial 'D'.

Danielle Smith

Premier of Alberta