



Premier of Alberta

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

July 13, 2023

The Honourable Nate Horner
President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for your service to this government and congratulate you on your new role as President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

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.

Our government is committed to continued balanced budgets, limiting operational spending to less than inflation plus population growth, lowering the provincial debt and growing the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to lessen the province's reliance on resource revenues over the long term.

We are also committed to growing Alberta's tax advantage for both individuals and businesses to strengthen economic activity, investment, Albertans' quality of life and the ability to invest in core social programs and those that deliver them.

Under your leadership as Minister of Treasury Board and 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 our platform commitments to support Albertans, including:

- Amending the *Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act* to ensure no future government can increase personal or business income tax rates without approval from Albertans in a referendum.
- Creating a new eight per cent tax bracket on income under \$60,000, thereby saving each Alberta taxpayer approximately \$760 per year.
- Legislatively extending the fuel tax pause until Dec. 31, 2023.
- Continuing to index personal income tax brackets annually.

In addition, I expect you to undertake the following initiatives to further strengthen Alberta's economy:



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- As lead, working with the Minister of Affordability and Utilities and stakeholders to review and develop short and long-term recommendations to make automobile and property insurance more affordable for Albertans.
- Reviewing the mandate of ATB and making recommendations on how it can become more competitive in financing Alberta businesses and homebuyers, and making other recommendations to strengthen the institution's financial position to ensure it remains viable and contributes to Alberta's unique provincial economy in the long term.
- Releasing the Alberta Pension Plan report and consulting with Albertans on its findings to determine whether a referendum should be held to establish an Alberta Pension Plan that will increase pension benefits for seniors, reduce premiums for workers and protect the pension interests and benefits of all Albertans.
- Exploring the feasibility and advantages of establishing an Alberta Revenue Agency to collect all provincial tax revenues, and developing a detailed strategy for its implementation should our government choose to pursue it.
- Implementing a Halal financing option for Alberta's Islamic communities.
- Working with the Minister of 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 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.

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 cursive script that reads "Danielle Smith".

Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta