



Premier of Alberta

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

July 31, 2023

The Honourable Mike Ellis  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for your service to this government and congratulate you on your continued service as Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

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.

Violence and social order have become one of the gravest challenges governments across Canada are facing. Fueled by an unprecedented mental health and addiction crisis and enabled by dysfunctional bail laws, a cheap supply of deadly hard drugs and far too many “defund the police” policies, our streets increasingly resemble those of Vancouver, Portland, and San Francisco.

We cannot let this happen. Enough is enough. Our government has no higher priority than protecting Albertans and keeping our communities safe.

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 our platform commitments to support Albertans, including:

- Immediately implementing the Safe Streets Action Plan, including adding at least 100 new patrol officers for Calgary and Edmonton, and assessing whether more officers are needed.
- Creating specialized sheriff-led anti-fentanyl and illegal gun trafficking teams including at the Canada-U.S. border.
- Expanding the provincial cybercrime units.
- Exploring opportunities for continued sheriff deployment in Edmonton, Calgary, and other communities to assist with patrols and street-level law enforcement.
- Increasing support for Internet and Child Exploitation Teams.



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- Creating additional Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team Gang Suppression Units including increased monitoring of scrap metal dealers and gang connections to reduce catalytic converter theft.
- Working with partners to create a new provincial DNA lab.
- Implementing, with sheriffs, a modern ankle bracelet monitoring program and enhanced 24-hour bail monitoring of violent and sexual offenders.
- Improving awareness of Clare's Law and other tools to assist Albertans forming close relationships with violent and sexual offenders without knowledge or consent.

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

- Continuing to create and expand therapeutic living units at correctional facilities.
- Reviewing the education and training curriculum for sheriffs so they can assist in a broader scope of policing.
- Ensuring the safe transportation of mental health and addiction patients to appropriate health services.
- Working with Indigenous, mid-sized, and rural communities to address rising crime rates in these areas.
- Reviewing and providing recommendations to improve the delivery model and funding associated with search and rescue operations in the province.
- Introducing emergency management measures that will ensure the province is prepared to respond to any natural disaster or other emergency anywhere in the province.
- Developing a flood and fire mitigation strategy to proactively protect communities at risk of future natural disasters.
- Modernizing and reforming Indigenous policing programs to address chronic underfunding and gaps.
- Continuing to work with local communities to support them with the community policing options they believe will best serve their populations.
- As the lead, and in collaboration with the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, ensuring police services have the tools they need to support the wellness and recovery of Albertans while they focus on keeping communities safe.
- Designing a ministry-specific job-attraction strategy that raises awareness for young Albertans (aged 16 to 24) and adults changing careers of the professions available in the



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policing, emergency services, and emergency management sectors, including pathways for education 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 black ink that reads "Danielle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Smith

Premier of Alberta