



Premier of Alberta

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

July 19, 2023

The Honourable Nathan Neudorf  
Minister of Affordability and Utilities

Dear Minister:

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

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.

Affordability is a top concern for Albertans and our government must proactively do all it can to stabilize and lower the costs of utilities, housing, food, insurance and other needed services so they can save more of their hard-earned money to spend on their families and other priorities.

Under your leadership as Minister of Affordability and Utilities, 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, including:

- Pushing back against any federal regulation requiring a net-zero power grid by 2035, and developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to achieve a carbon-neutral power grid by 2050 that is reliable, affordable, and utilizes small modular reactors, carbon capture, utilization and storage, and other emission-reduction technologies.
- Reviewing the operations, policies, and mission of your agencies, including the Alberta Utilities Commission and the Alberta Electric System Operator, and recommending ways to improve their operations and align its mission with the government's goal of a carbon-neutral, reliable, and affordable power grid by 2050.
- Reviewing Alberta's electricity pricing system with the goal of reducing transmission and distribution costs for Albertans.
- Addressing the cost of utilities for Albertans by exploring the potential phase out of the regulated rate option for electricity and otherwise protecting consumers from spikes in electricity and natural gas prices, while ensuring Albertans continue to have a competitive range of provider choices within those markets.



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- Working with the relevant ministries to address cost-of-living concerns for Albertans, with a specific focus on housing, utilities, food costs, and insurance.
- Coordinating with the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance as lead, to work with stakeholders to review and provide short and long-term recommendations to make automobile and property insurance more affordable for Albertans.
- Working with the Minister of Indigenous Relations, who is the lead, to review and make recommendations to accelerate the connection of First Nations and Metis Settlement communities to electricity, natural gas and internet services.
- Working with the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, who is the lead, to develop and implement an affordable home ownership and rental strategy that focuses on incentivizing the construction of new homes and rental units while removing barriers for prospective homeowners and renters.
- Collaborating with the Minister of Energy and Minerals and Minister of Environment and Protected Areas to develop strategic alliances with other provinces to deal with issues such as climate policy, electricity policy and federal intrusions into provincial jurisdiction.

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".

Danielle Smith

Premier of Alberta