



Premier of Alberta

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

July 27, 2023

The Honourable Rick Wilson
Minister of Indigenous Relations

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for your service to this government and for your continued service as Minister of Indigenous Relations.

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.

Forming lasting and meaningful economic and social partnerships with Indigenous communities will be integral to any success our province will achieve over the coming decades and beyond.

Under your leadership as Minister of Indigenous Relations, 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:

- Doubling the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation loan capacity to at least \$2 billion and providing recommendations related to the potential expansion of eligible projects, including health care, manufacturing, forestry, tourism, and technology.
- Working with the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, who is the lead, to support Indigenous Peoples in Alberta by strengthening a comprehensive continuum of mental health and addiction services and ensuring service provision is not disrupted by jurisdictional disputes.
- Working with the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, who is lead, to ensure First Nations and Metis Settlements have access to insurance to rebuild homes and structures in the case of fire and other insurable losses.



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

- Taking the lead on Indigenous reconciliation by using Jordan's principle as a guide to ensure every Indigenous person has the same access to core services as any other Albertan.
- Respecting the traditional territories and treaties of our First Nations and Métis partners and, in coordination with the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, who is lead, proactively partner with communities on planning economic corridors and other major development projects for the mutual economic benefit of all.
- Working with cross-ministry partners to continue addressing violence and increase safety and economic security of Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people.
- Continuing to build and strengthen relationships between the provincial government and First Nations and Métis communities in Alberta.
- Continuing to work with the Minister of Children and Family Services, who is the lead, on engagement with the Government of Canada and with Alberta communities on the implementation of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (Bill C-92) to ensure the interests of Indigenous children in Alberta are protected.
- As the lead, working with the Minister of Affordability and Utilities 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 cross-ministry partners to ensure Indigenous businesses and communities play an integral role in our provincial energy strategy and economic partnerships.
- In cooperation with the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, who is the lead, implementing the First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-In Program.

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



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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