



Premier of Alberta

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

July 21, 2023

The Honourable Rajan Sawhney
Minister of Advanced Education

Dear Minister:

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

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 Advanced Education, 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:

- Increasing and accelerating auto-credentialing for workers from national and international jurisdictions with similar standards.
- In coordination with the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance, designing and implementing an up to \$10,000 Graduate retention tax credit for Alberta's post secondary graduates.
- Funding additional aviation management seats at Mount Royal University and other post secondary institutions, and providing grants to help more Albertans pursue a career in aviation.
- Investing \$4 million per year to add more mental health professional spaces in Alberta's post-secondary institutions.

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

- Reviewing Alberta's professional governing bodies and post-secondary institutions, for the purpose of making recommendations to protect the free speech rights of Alberta professionals.



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- Exploring the development of a teaching certification program that would shorten the period of time it takes an individual with a degree or diploma to become certified to teach in Alberta's K-12 education system.
- Providing recommendations for strengthening provincial grants for medical and other post-secondary research so an increased number of research topics can be supported and explored by Alberta-based researchers.
- Working with Alberta's established medical schools to examine ways to increase the number of physicians trained in Alberta, particularly in rural areas, by partnering with other post-secondary institutions.
- Implementing the Professional Governance Act to ensure the adoption of a uniform governance framework for all professional regulatory organizations
- Working with the Minister of Technology and Innovation to ensure appropriate governance of software engineers that does not compromise the tech industry's ability to attract needed software engineers from around the world.
- Acting as Alberta's lead advocate and champion of the skilled trades and professions to ensure, as early as junior high, that this education track has parity of esteem as a desirable education pathway that will lead to highly rewarding careers.
- In the context of skilled trades, taking a leadership role in meeting the evolving needs of the economy with a focus on ensuring journeypersons obtain needed skills for the modern economy.
- In collaboration with the Minister of Education, reviewing the *Skills for Jobs Task Force Report*, and advance key recommendations from the Report pertaining to your ministry.
- As lead, working with the Minister of Health to develop streamlined auto-credentialling for front-line health care workers, doctors, nurses and paramedics.
- Continue working with career colleges and other educational institutions to develop pathways to become accredited to deliver diplomas and degrees.
- Working in cooperation with the Minister of Education, funding growth of "CAREERS" with public and separate school divisions to increase student participation in off campus programs/paid internships.
- Collaborating with the Minister of Education to develop and promote career educational scholarships in areas of labour shortage for Alberta's K-12 students.
- Assisting each ministry to execute on their mandate to design a ministry specific job attraction strategy that raises awareness for young Albertans (16-24), as well as adults changing careers, regarding the skilled trades and professions available in each economic sector including pathways for education, apprenticeship, and training



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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 on 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