



Premier of Alberta

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

July 28, 2023

The Honourable Searle Turton  
Minister of Children and Family Services

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for your service to this government and congratulate you on your new role as Minister of Children and Family 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.

The future of our province is contingent on the strength of our families and children. Under your leadership as Minister of Children and Family 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 Alberta families and children, including:

- Increasing funding for women's shelters by \$10 million over four years.
- Increasing funding for sexual assault centres by \$10 million over four years.
- Working with the federal government and child care providers to implement \$10-per-day daycare by 2026 that promotes and incentivizes new child care spaces for both private and non-profit operators.
- Collaborating with the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, who is the lead, to expand access to young people struggling with severe mental illness with four new youth mental wellness centres that provide inpatient mental health and addiction treatment to youth. This includes expanding prevention and early intervention mental health supports for children and youth that are integrated within schools and communities.

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

- Increasing the number of licensed child care spaces in private and non-profit centres as well as day homes.
- Developing and implementing improvements to the foster care system to reduce the number of moves and minimize disruption during a child's time in care, and supporting



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kinship and foster families, where appropriate, to provide permanent homes and continuity of care for children.

- Developing and implementing supports victims of domestic violence.
- Supporting Alberta's continued leadership in adoption by developing supports to enable a more efficient and effective adoption process.
- Conducting a review of the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* to ensure the legislation is meeting the needs of children, youth, and families in Alberta.
- As lead, continuing to work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations 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.
- Designing a ministry-specific job attraction strategy that raises awareness for young Albertans (aged 16 to 24) and adults changing careers of the skilled trades and professions available in childcare and related services, 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