



Premier of Alberta

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

July 11, 2023

The Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for your service to this government, and for your continued service as Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors.

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.

Our province requires world-class transportation networks, infrastructure and economic corridors to grow our economy, improve Albertans' quality of life and attract the best and brightest from around the world.

Under your leadership as Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, 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 election platform commitments, including taking the lead in finalizing a provincial investment of up to \$300 million for road and bridge construction, LRT connection, site utilities, site reclamation and other supportive infrastructure to support the development of the new Calgary arena and entertainment district.

This should include a partnership with the city, with an additional contribution of up to \$30 million, to build a new 1,000-seat community arena neighbouring the main arena that will serve youth and amateur hockey.

In addition, I expect you to work on several ongoing and new initiatives to develop Alberta's transportation infrastructure and economic corridors, including:

- Expanding and improving major highways and roadways in the greater Edmonton and Calgary areas, including the Anthony Henday Drive and Deerfoot Trail.
- Developing an integrated water program that facilitates increased water treatment and distribution for residential, industrial and agricultural water use across Alberta.



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- Focusing on expanding economic corridors across the province and country to increase employment, economic growth and non-renewable resource revenue for Albertans. This should include working to secure corridor agreements with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners to Hudson Bay, the Pacific and the Arctic. Also, to improve Highway 686 to better connect Alberta's northwestern and northeastern economic regions.
- Working through the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to prioritize interprovincial infrastructure projects and to align regulation with a view towards a more prosperous transportation and logistics industry. In addition, work should include expanding economic corridor MOUs to include British Columbia and territorial partners.
- As lead, collaborating with the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance to explore cost-sharing arrangements with the private sector and/or municipalities that support economic investment in Alberta's transportation network, including public transit, heavy rail and bridge infrastructure that better connects the Calgary and Edmonton airports to their downtowns, regional communities to Calgary and Edmonton, and Calgary to the province's Rocky Mountains parks system. This must initially include completing the Blue Line link to the Calgary airport.
- Examining the feasibility of a province-led Metrolinx-like model for commuter rail service using heavy rail on the Canadian Pacific rail line from Airdrie to Okotoks and the Edmonton International Airport to downtown Edmonton, with a view to developing a commuter rail system that can expand as Alberta grows. Part of the feasibility study should include the use of hydrogen-powered trains.
- Building a safer transportation system and a more efficient network in Alberta that embraces technology and innovative products and reduces the regulatory burden on commercial carriers, drivers and other users.
- As lead, working with the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade to facilitate the growth and development of Alberta's airports, with special attention to regional airports (i.e., Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat) that can help Albertans connect themselves and their goods to major international airports and increase Alberta's economic competitiveness.
- Collaborating with the Minister of Indigenous Relations to explore ways to work with Indigenous and Métis people for transportation-related prosperity-sharing, water management, emergency mitigation and recovery.
- As lead, working with the Minister of Indigenous Relations to implement the First Nations Regional Drinking Water Tie-In Program.
- In cooperation with the Minister of Infrastructure, accelerating priority infrastructure investments identified by Cabinet and Caucus.



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- Working with the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade, assist in designing a ministry-specific job-attraction strategy to raise the awareness of young Albertans (aged 16 to 24), and adults changing careers, of the skilled trades and professions available in each economic sector, including pathways for education, apprenticeship, and training.
- Working with municipalities to assess and improve strategic bridge infrastructure.

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.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta