



Premier of Alberta

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

July 10, 2023

The Honourable Rebecca Schulz  
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Dear Minister:

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

Our diverse Cabinet is made up of talented 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.

Alberta is the most responsible energy producer and exporter on Earth. Our industry and government spend billions annually on pioneering and commercializing technologies that are turning our massive oil and gas reserves into a long-term, environmentally sustainable and responsible source of energy for the world.

We must accelerate these technological advances to significantly impact the direction the global community takes in pursuing emissions-reduction strategies. Alberta has the potential to provide the world with the technology and the energy-development policies necessary to make meaningful emissions reductions while maintaining global energy security, affordability and economic growth.

Under your leadership as Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, 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 several key priorities that will improve our environment, promote economic growth and ensure the protection of our land, air and water. These include:

- Working collaboratively with the federal government, First Nations and industry to develop and implement an accelerated strategy for oil sands mine water management and tailings pond reclamation.
- Coordinating with the Minister of Energy and Minerals to implement the Emissions Reduction and Energy Development Plan.



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- Reviewing Alberta's water management strategy to increase the availability of water and water licences to Alberta municipalities, businesses and agricultural producers while maintaining the highest standards of water conservation and treatment.
- As lead, and working with the Minister of Energy and Minerals, develop a plan to improve the current reclamation certificate issuance process and streamline reclamation requirements for new and emerging energy sources.
- As lead, and working with relevant and impacted ministries, establish new land-use plans and review existing land-use plans to ensure alignment with government environmental and economic policy.
- Supporting continued technology and innovation through the Technology, Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) program, including establishing new protocols to develop and trade carbon credits.
- Conducting an analysis into Alberta's carbon sink capacity (i.e., forest, fescue, soil, etc.) to establish a true understanding of Alberta's position in relation to carbon neutrality.
- Promoting Alberta's leading-edge regulatory and cumulative effects management systems, including climate and environmental policies for air, land, water, biodiversity and waste.
- Implementing extended producer responsibility systems and creating a circular economy for plastics development and recycling in Alberta, establishing our province as a North American centre of excellence for plastics diversion and recycling.
- Working with the Minister of Energy and Minerals, who is lead, to develop and implement a regulatory framework for use of small modular reactor technology.
- In cooperation with the Minister of Intergovernmental Relations, defending Alberta's energy interests against federal overreach and developing strategic alliances with other provinces to deal with environment-related issues.
- Working with the Minister of Energy and Minerals, who is the lead, and the Minister of Justice, to review the mission, policies and operations of the Canadian Energy Centre, and make recommendations to align its work with the government's goals.
- 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.



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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 to take feedback and identify potential solutions to issues of importance to them, including finding ways our government can reduce burdensome and unnecessary red tape and barriers that are hurting their ability to grow the economy and improve the 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