



Premier of Alberta

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

Dear Teachers of Alberta,

For some time now, and especially over the past three weeks, you've faced extraordinary challenges, uncertainty, and stress. I want to start by recognizing your dedication, professionalism, and the many sacrifices you've made for your students and communities.

Teaching is not just a job; it is a calling. Every day, you bring patience, creativity, and compassion into your classrooms. I see you arriving early to prepare lessons, and staying late to help students who need extra support so your students have what they need to succeed.

Your commitment to your students, especially during times of disruption and uncertainty, stands out.

I understand that being legislated back to work after a prolonged strike is not what you all wanted.

Our government did not make the decision to introduce the Back to School Act lightly. Our intent is to ensure that students return to the classroom while we work together to address the real and pressing issues in our schools.

I see the realities you face: overcrowded classrooms, increasing complexity of student needs, violence and aggression in schools, and the strain of doing more with less. We have heard loud and clear from teachers and parents that, with more than 80,000 new students entering our system over the past three years, additional supports to address class sizes and increasing classroom complexity are necessary.

That's why we've invested \$8.6 billion last year to build 130 new schools by 2030. This means smaller class sizes, more support for students, and less strain on educators.

I know that funding alone does not solve these problems.

Along with the salary increase and our commitment to hire 3,000 new teachers and 1,500 educational assistants over the next three years, we're taking concrete steps to address your concerns.

- **Listening to Teachers:** We are establishing a Class Size and Complexity Task Force, so your voices guide policy decisions. We will be also collecting classroom-level data to better understand your daily realities and guide resource allocation.
- **Safer Classrooms:** We are developing new policies and supports to address violence and aggression, so every teacher and student feels safe and respected.

- **Individualized Student Support:** We are expanding access to assessments and interventions for students with complex needs, so you have the resources to help every child succeed.
- **Modernizing Funding and Infrastructure:** We are overhauling funding models and fast-tracking school construction and upgrades to reduce class sizes and improve learning environments.

You are the heart of Alberta's schools. Your expertise, care, and advocacy for students are invaluable. We want to move forward together, with respect, honesty, and a shared commitment to making our schools better for everyone.

Thank you for everything you do for your students, for your colleagues, and for the future of Alberta.

With respect and determination,

Danielle Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danielle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

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