



Premier of Alberta

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

October 24, 2022

The Honourable Heather Stefanson
Premier of Manitoba
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

The Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan
Room 226, 2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Colleagues:

One of my first priorities as Premier of Alberta is to harness the initiative of provinces rather than waiting for federal action. Nowhere is that more clear than the reaction, or lack thereof, to the energy and food security and affordability crisis exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine has highlighted the world's need for responsibly produced, reliable and affordable energy and food. In my view, the federal government remains generally unmoved by the urgency of this global crisis, despite U.S. and European legislators desperately looking to Canada to play a key role in providing essential resources to the rest of the world.

I believe it is incumbent on our provinces to play a leadership role in expanding and advocating for greater market access, including working together to push for a renewed look at the Port of Churchill. It is also a commitment Western Premiers made to support initiatives that will expand capacity of the Churchill rail and port systems and strengthen existing and emerging Northern supply routes.

I am aware that expanding the Port of Churchill has long been considered a costly endeavour, but the economics appear to be changing. Investors are increasingly looking for responsibly produced energy and agricultural products and are united on the need to limit the power and reach of despotic regimes, including Russia. The Director of the Canadian Coast Guard is also optimistic in regards to servicing the Port, and the emerging viability of Arctic operations, citing that the Russian Yamal Peninsula project has been operating with great success, and even expanding operations to meet global gas demands.

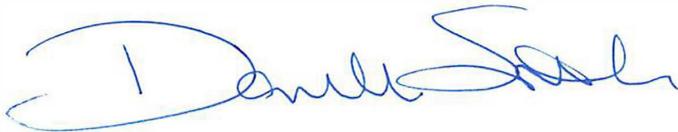
It is within this context that I would like to discuss a meeting between ourselves in Churchill, Manitoba at your earliest convenience. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss how our three provinces could work together to address energy and food security issues, and in particular opportunities at the Port. This includes pipelines, such as the First People's Pipeline Project, infrastructure improvements to existing rail lines and highways, and opportunities to

increase our export of crops, fertilizers, critical minerals and other commodities. Our leadership will bring weight and purpose to the Canadian reaction against Russia's atrocities and will show the rest of the world that there is indeed a business case to export low carbon Canadian energy and food products to Europe.

Enhancing market access is critical for our collective economic prosperity and well-being of our citizens. It will make us more competitive, increase our presence on the global stage, and strengthen Canada's role in addressing food and energy shortages. It also ensures our businesses and citizens can purchase a range of goods at affordable prices, especially during periods of surging inflation.

I will ask my office to work to find a time when you may be available to meet with me to discuss this proposal. It is my hope that in meeting together in Churchill, we will kick-start our ongoing collaboration in this area and formalize a structure to engage with the Port, relevant ministries, First Nations and stakeholders to move this important work forward.

Sincerely,



Honourable Danielle Smith ECA
Premier of Alberta