



April 3, 2009

The Honourable Janis Tarchuk  
Minister of Children and Youth Services  
228 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Tarchuk:

The mandate letter you received last year outlined the priorities you were expected to focus on as Minister of Children and Youth Services and member of our Cabinet team. Through your leadership, and the hard work of all our ministries, considerable progress has been made on our ambitious agenda. This letter updates and refocuses the initiatives identified last spring. It reflects progress made to date and details the adjustments to keep the strong forward momentum necessary to ensure Alberta remains the best place to live, work, visit and invest in.

We are moving forward in a time of uncertainty. Our past actions have positioned Alberta well. However, to protect Albertans and keep building our province for the long term we must adapt to changing realities and manage within our fiscal capacity.

Our business plan will continue to set out the actions we will take to deliver on our five priorities over the next year. We will also continue to publicly report on these priorities as a part of our regular business planning cycle, allowing Albertans to measure our progress as a government.

In order to fulfill the commitments we made last spring and to continue to focus on the outcomes of most importance to Albertans, our priorities remain:

1. **Resourceful. Responsible** - Ensure Alberta's energy resources are developed in an environmentally sustainable way.
2. **A Healthy Approach** - Increase access to quality health care and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care service delivery.
3. **Strong Communities** - Promote strong and vibrant communities and reduce crime so Albertans feel safe.
4. **Creating Opportunity** - Enhance value-added activity, increase innovation, and build a skilled workforce to improve the long-run sustainability of Alberta's economy.

5. ***Building Tomorrow*** - Provide the roads, schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing economy and population.

Cooperation and coordination among all ministries is necessary to achieve these priorities, as is working within the resources available to your ministry. Your role will be key in supporting these efforts.

You will work with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General to:

- Promote strong and vibrant communities and reduce crime so Albertans feel safe, and

Lead the following initiatives:

- Improve access to existing programs for high-risk youth and Albertans affected by family violence, maintaining an emphasis on expanding supports for Aboriginal people and immigrants;
- Implement strategies to successfully engage the public in a recruitment campaign to increase the number of foster parents and kinship caregivers; and
- Build new outcomes-based business relationships with contracted social services agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of services provided to children and families most in need.

In addition, as Minister of Children and Youth Services, you will lead the following initiative which will assist us in achieving our collective goals:

- Continue to support the creation of 14,000 new child care spaces by 2011, including in-school and out-of-school care, family day homes, and day cares.

I consider this letter and your agreement to work on these priorities and initiatives, in addition to your core businesses in your ministry business plan, to be a contract between us. Your contributions and our commitment as a government, combined with Albertans' spirit to achieve, will help us create an even stronger Alberta.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Stelmach  
Premier