



Enterprise¹ Canada

**ALBERTA'S NEW
CABINET MINISTERS**

SUMMARY

Danielle Smith unveiled her first cabinet earlier today, 10 days after being sworn-in as the 19th Premier of Alberta. The announcement puts to bed days of speculation surrounding who will make Premier Smith's first cabinet. Premier Smith's cabinet will be officially sworn-in to their new roles on Monday, October 22.

Smith's new executive includes many familiar faces, with surprising carry-over from the previous cabinet. That said, the cabinet nevertheless includes several new faces as well as new ministries.

As expected, a large portion of Alberta's new cabinet is made up of MLAs representing constituencies in rural Alberta. In total, 11 of the 26 ministers come from outside the province's two major cities. The new cabinet reflects Smith's desire to give greater voice to rural Albertans. In a statement, Smith's press secretary said that the decision to include more rural MLAs "directly stems from rural Albertans having felt left out of the conversation."

Here's a full breakdown of the new cabinet.

NAME CHANGERS

Along with the new faces, Premier Smith also shuffled ministry organization with several new ministries announced:

- Ministry of Skilled Trades and Professions
- Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development
- Ministry of Affordability and Utilities
- Ministry of Public Safety
- Ministry of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
- Ministry of Forestry, Parks and Tourism
- Ministry of Technology and Innovation

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Despite widespread speculation that Smith would employ a scorched-earth approach to creating her new cabinet, much of her cabinet includes members of the previous one. Below is a list of Ministers remaining from the last cabinet:

- Travis Toews
- Sonya Savage
- Rebecca Schulz
- Jason Copping
- Tyler Shandro
- Adrianna LaGrange
- Nicholas Milliken
- Jason Luan
- Mike Ellis
- Nate Glubish
- Rajan Sawhney
- Nate Horner
- Rick Wilson
- Kaycee Madu
- Brad Rutherford
- Matt Jones
- Dale Nally

Meanwhile, eight ministers from the previous cabinet have been left out of Smith's newly formed executive council:

- Ric McIver
- Tanya Fir
- Josephine Pon
- Ron Orr
- Prasad Panda

- Whitney Issik
- Jason Nixon
- Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk

GET TO KNOW THE CABINET

Travis Toews, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board

As Smith's closest competitor in the race to become UCP leader, Toews' installment in the Premier's new cabinet is an encouraging early sign of party unity. Toews retains his position as President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, a position he was first assigned to in April 2019. Minister Toews holds a CPA, CMA accounting designation and spent over a decade at a public accounting practice. Minister Toews and his wife managed a corporate family cattle ranching operation and an oilfield environmental company.

Jason Copping, Minister of Health

Copping holds onto health after stabilizing the ministry following the height of the pandemic. He will be tasked with executing Smith's promised health care reforms, which she promised to do within the first 90 days of her government. One of Minister Copping's first orders of business will be to reform Alberta Health Services by hiring a new CEO. Smith has also said that she plans to replace the AHS board with an interim health commissioner who will report directly to her and the Minister of Health.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health will be tasked with increasing the number of ICU beds in hospitals. Smith has also mentioned that she plans to implement a task force to ensure all beds are being utilized appropriately, whether they be in hospital or long-term care.

Tyler Shandro, Minister of Justice

Shandro holds on to Justice with the public safety portfolio moving to its own ministry. Shandro will continue the work of justice system reforms, including modernizing the court system. Examining the viability of a provincial police force will certainly be one of the main concerns for Shandro as he steps into his new role of Justice Minister. Additionally, he will be tasked with working with the RCMP to enhance their response to the opioid crisis, rural crime and human trafficking.

Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Fellow UCP leadership candidate Rebecca Schulz steps into the role of Minister of Municipal Affairs. Minister Schultz was elected as the MLA for Calgary-Shaw on April 16, 2019. Following her election win, Schultz was appointed Minister of Children's Services on April 30, 2019. In her time as the Minister of Children's Services, Schulz successfully negotiated a \$6 billion child care deal with the federal government. Schultz has a master's degree in communications from John Hopkins University.

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

LaGrange also holds onto Education, a role she's held since the UCP formed government in 2019. During the campaign, Premier Smith promised that her government would provide more support for testing, tutoring and teaching assistance to help children recover from setbacks caused by online schooling. Smith also committed to investing in more Educational Assistants in classrooms throughout the province. Prior to entering the legislature, LaGrange served as a Trustee for the Red Deer Catholic Regional School Division for more than 11 years and holds a Diploma in Rehabilitative Studies from Humber College. She is also the mother of seven and the grandmother of four.

Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Advanced Education

Nicolaidis retains his position as the Minister of Advanced Education after having been first appointed to the role by former Premier Jason Kenney in 2019. Prior to being elected in 2019, Minister Nicolaidis worked as a mediator with the Alberta Civil Court after obtaining a PhD in Political Science from University of Cyprus and a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies from the European Peace University.

Nicholas Milliken, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Milliken takes up his role as the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, which was previously just an associate ministry. Milliken previously served as Infrastructure Minister since June 2021. Milliken was first elected to the Alberta Legislature as the MLA for Calgary-Currie in April 2019. Prior to serving with the Legislative Assembly, Milliken was a practicing lawyer and business owner in Calgary.

Jason Luan, Minister of Culture

Luan enters the role of Culture having previously served as the Minister of Community and Social Services. Luan also served as the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. Minister Luan's career in Alberta politics stretches a long way back, having previously served as a PC MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood from 2012 to 2015. Prior to being elected, Luan worked in the social services sector for over twenty years, working as a child protection worker, social planner and managing funds for non-profit social services agencies. He graduated from the University of Calgary with a Masters in Social Work in 1990.

Pete Guthrie, Minister of Energy

Guthrie makes his debut in cabinet after being first elected in 2019 as the MLA for Airdrie-Cochrane. A few major issues will sit on his desk, including the future of coal mining and abandoned well cleanup. When asked about her policy on coal mining earlier this month, Premier Smith said that

she would "meet with the involved ministers and discuss all the available options and best path forward with caucus." He has a background in business, agriculture, engineering & small business.

Nathan Neudorf, Deputy Premier and Minister of Infrastructure

One of Smith's early endorsers, Neudorf steps into cabinet for the first time since being elected as the MLA for Lethbridge-East in 2019. Premier Smith indicated that Neudorf will be tasked with improving coordination between ministries as the deputy premier. Neudorf has experience in commercial construction and has his civil and structural engineering diploma.

Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety

Ellis gets a promotion to Alberta's top cop after serving as the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions since 2020. The new public safety minister will be tasked with moving forward on an Alberta provincial police force as well as tackling rural and urban crime. Ellis was elected as the MLA for Calgary-West in a by-election held on October 27, 2019. Prior to working as an MLA, Ellis worked with the Calgary Police Service for twelve years. He holds a management certificate from Mount Royal College and a leadership certificate from the International Association of Chiefs of Police

Nate Glubish, Minister of Technology and Innovation

Another endorser of Danielle Smith, Minister Glubish steps into the newly formed ministry Technology and Innovation after holding the portfolio of Service Alberta since April 2019. Glubish was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on April 16, 2019, as the MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park. Prior to his election, Glubish worked for Vancouver-based Yaletown Partners, a Venture Capital fund.

Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Trade Immigration and Multiculturalism

One of Smith's fellow UCP leadership contenders, Sawhney takes up the new ministry of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism. Minister Sawhney was appointed Minister of Transportation on April 30, 2019 after she was first elected as MLA for Calgary-North East in the 2019 provincial election. Prior to being elected, Sawhney worked in the oil and gas industry for two decades, serving in senior leadership roles, including as the Vice President of Business Development for Fracture Modeling Inc. Minister Sawhney holds an economics and political science degree and an MBA from the University of Calgary.

Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations

Rick Wilson maintains his duties as Minister of Indigenous Relations, having been first appointed to the Ministry in April 2019. Minister Wilson grew up and went to school with the First Nation of Maskwacis. Prior to being elected provincially, Minister Wilson previously served as a Wetaskiwin County Councillor for fifteen years.

Nathan Horner, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Horner stays as agriculture minister but his portfolio changes with forestry and economic development moving to other ministers. Horner was first elected as the MLA for Drumheller-Stettler on April 16, 2019. Before entering politics, Horner operated his grandfather's family ranch, and ran an oilfield ambulance business.

Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

The former energy minister assumes the role of Minister of Environment and Protected Areas. One of Savage's major focusses as she takes over her new portfolio will be tackling the coal file, which has become a very contentious issue across the province. Her experience as Energy Minister will be crucially beneficial in accomplishing this. The MLA

for Calgary-North West, Savage first entered the Legislature in 2019.

Kaycee Madu, Deputy Premier and Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions

As Smith's only endorsement from the Jason Kenney cabinet, Madu gets promoted to deputy premier and continues in the newly named labour ministry. Madu has previously served as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General and Minister of Municipal Affairs. Born in Southeastern Nigeria, Madu attended the University of Lagos where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws Honours degree. He immigrated to Canada in 2005 where he practiced law for 16 years prior to entering politics.

Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Nally enters the newly amalgamated Ministry of Service Alberta and Red Tape reduction, replacing Nate Glubish and Tanya Fir, respectively. On April 30, 2019, Nally was appointed Associate Minister of Natural Gas. He was then appointed Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity on March 24, 2020. Before entering politics, Nally worked in the private sector helping to manage multi-million dollar businesses. Nally has a Master's Degree in Education from Athabasca University.

Mickey Amery, Minister of Children's Services

The MLA for Calgary-Cross enters cabinet after being an MLA since 2019. Amery lead the government's affordable housing task force, which recommended major changes to government's role in providing affordable housing. Prior to entering politics, Amery worked as a practicing lawyer and business owner in Calgary. This is Amery's first cabinet appointment.

Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism

Loewen enters cabinet for the first time after a tumultuous few years inside (and outside) of UCP Caucus. Loewen was removed from UCP Caucus last year after calling for Premier Kenney to resign. Having ran against Smith in the UCP leadership race, Loewen gained notoriety for his stance on issues such as healthcare reform and pandemic response. Loewen first entered the Alberta Legislature under the Wildrose banner, having won in the 2015 general election in the riding of Grande Prairie-Smoky.

Matt Jones, Minister of Affordability and Utilities

Matt Jones enters his second stint as a cabinet minister after serving as the Minister of Children's Services since June 2022. Assuming the role of Affordability and Utilities Minister, Jones will likely be tasked with addressing the ever-growing cost of living in the province and tackling the rising cost of utilities for Albertans. Jones was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the constituency of Calgary-South East on April 16, 2019. Prior to entering politics, Jones worked as an investment banker helping Alberta based businesses with capital raises, acquisitions, and divestitures.

Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

Minister Dreeshen re-enters cabinet as the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors after having previously served as the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry from April 2019 to November 2021. Dreeshen was first elected in a by-election in July 2018, after winning a competitive race for the United Conservative nomination. In opposition, he served as Trade critic. He is a farmer with a family grain farm located in the Pine Lake area.

Jeremy Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services

Jeremy Nixon enters cabinet for the first time as the social services minister with the addition of the senior's portfolio. Elected to the Alberta Assembly in 2019 as the MLA for Calgary-Klein, Nixon first ran to be an MLA in 2012 as a member of the Wildrose Party.

Brian Jean, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

In an encouraging show of party unity, the former Wildrose Leader and UCP leadership candidate enters the role of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development minister. Jean serves as the MLA for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche after winning a by-election in March 2022. A rival and vocal critic of former premier Jason Kenney, Jean served as the leader of the opposition from May 2015 to July 2017 while carrying the Wildrose Party banner.

Brad Rutherford, Whip and Minister without Portfolio

Rutherford continues his role as government whip. Rutherford has also served as the liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces since June 3, 2019. Before entering politics, Rutherford served for 10 years as a member of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS).

Joseph Schow, House Leader and Minister without Portfolio

The Cardston-Siksika MLA has previously served as the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills and the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing. Before becoming an MLA, Schow previously as a legislative coordinator in the legislature.

OUR WESTERN CANADA TEAM



Steven McLelan

Director, Public Affairs, Western Canada

Steven joined the Enterprise team after leading the United Conservative Party Caucus Research and Policy team following the government's successful election in 2019. Prior to moving to Alberta, he graduated from University of Victoria and developed his robust research skills and understanding of the political landscape by administering opposition research for the BC Liberal Caucus. He applied those skills to the nomination vetting process for United Conservative Party contestants prior to the 2018 Alberta by-election and 2019 general election.



Nathan Clark

Senior Consultant, Western Canada & Health Practice

Nathan came to Enterprise with over five years of political experience working for multiple governments. He served three years in the Office of the Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living in Manitoba, including two years as the Chief of Staff. Nathan has also served in a government affairs role at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. He held various roles during his time with the federal government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Nathan also worked in British Columbia where he served as an Executive Assistant to two ministers in Christy Clark's BC Liberal government.



Jordan Sperling

Consultant, Western Canada

Jordan returns to Enterprise's Western Canada team while being enrolled as a student at the University of Alberta. He is in his final year of a four-year bachelor program with a major in Honours Political Science and a minor in History. Jordan is already engaged in the political process, serving as the Events Coordinator for the University of Alberta Campus Conservatives, a position he has held since 2020. This is Jordan's second year working with Enterprise after joining as an intern in the spring of 2021.

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