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December 18, 2014

To the Wildrose Executive Committee,

Please accept this letter as my resignation as Leader of the Wildrose Political Association.

When I became Wildrose Leader on October 17, 2009, I did so with one singular objective in mind: to return to government the conservative values and principles that I had spent my life defending. Values and principles like balancing the budget, eliminating waste, respecting property rights, decentralizing decision making and clean, ethical government.

These are the values and principles I always strived to uphold, advance and defend as Wildrose Leader. They are values and principles I know each and every one of you share.

Your commitment to them and to me personally has been humbling and inspiring. I will always be grateful for your hard work and your contributions not only to Wildrose, but to Alberta.

Today, I am standing with Premier Jim Prentice to announce that several members of the Wildrose caucus – myself included – have joined the government caucus in a reunification of Alberta's conservatives.

After the events of the last several weeks, and after much careful deliberation, I believe now is the right time to come together as a united conservative family under Premier Prentice's leadership to confront the issues Alberta will face – both in the short and long-term.

As part of the reunification, the Premier and I have agreed on a set of aligned values and principles that will guide us as we move forward, including: respecting property rights, strengthening local decision making in health care and committing to sound conservative fiscal principles. I have attached the full document for your review.

highwood@assembly.ab.ca

The Premier has also indicated to me that Wildrose MLAs who choose to join the team will play key roles in the united government.

In keeping with the objective of uniting Alberta's conservatives, and as my final act as Wildrose Leader, I hereby request you hold a meeting of members to pass a reunification resolution at your earliest convenience. Members of our transition team will contact you in the near future to discuss the potential resolution in more detail.

Together, we have accomplished a lot. We have succeeded in steering the province away from failed leaders and failed policies. We have succeeded in getting fiscal conservatism, ethical government, and responsive public health care to the fore of Alberta's public debate. And we have stood by our principles and helped to make a real difference in people's lives. For this, we can and should be proud.

But our work isn't over. Indeed, with Alberta's fiscal picture becoming more and more critical, our values and principles are needed now more than ever.

I am aware that this will come as a shock to some of you, but it is my sincere hope that you will join us and encourage your fellow members to come together under Premier Prentice's leadership.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danielle Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Smith