



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

The Member of Parliament for Pontiac, Sophie Chatel, Speaks on the Transfer of the Asticou Site (Gatineau, Quebec) to the Government of Quebec

Gatineau, June 20, 2024 – Today, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), in collaboration with the National Capital Commission (NCC), announced its intention to transfer a portion of the land and building of the Asticou Centre (Gatineau, Quebec) to the Government of Quebec for the development of the future University Affiliated Hospital Centre. The federal Member of Parliament for Pontiac reiterated her commitment to protecting Gatineau Park and promoting health with the following statements:

“As the Member of Parliament for Pontiac, the protection of Gatineau Park and the promotion of a green and prosperous Outaouais are among my top priorities.”

“I also support the efforts of the Government of Canada as well as those of the Government of Quebec to provide the residents of the Outaouais with the much-needed modern healthcare infrastructure. The collaboration between various levels of government in the fields of infrastructure and health is a source of great pride for me.”

“These priorities, equally important, should not, however, be implemented at the expense of one another.”

The MP acknowledges that the decision on the location of a hospital is a provincial matter. She emphasizes that this decision will influence the overall architecture of the city of Gatineau and will affect future generations. Many voices have advocated for a more central site accessible by public and active transportation. Therefore, this decision requires a thorough study and transparent communication with all stakeholders.

If, after thorough study and consultation, the Asticou site is chosen to host the new hospital, the MP emphasizes that the agreement stipulates that the construction project must strictly respect the preservation of Gatineau Park’s ecosystems and natural landscapes. No fragmentation of surrounding protected habitats or construction of roads on NCC territory will be allowed under the agreement.

“I strongly encourage the Government of Quebec to develop a project that is as ecological as possible, aligning with the principles of sustainable development.”

Regarding the acquisition by the NCC of 8.9 hectares of the 26-hectare Asticou site, the MP states:

“I am very pleased that more than a third of the Asticou site will be transferred to the NCC to become a protected area of Gatineau Park and that the agreement includes clauses guaranteeing the protection of the park. The restoration and conservation of the natural areas of the Asticou site will mitigate the ecological footprint of such an infrastructure if it is built.”

Regarding immediate health issues, the MP joins the voices of regional elected officials and healthcare professionals in the Outaouais, such as doctors, nurses, and technologists.

“Everyone agrees that, to overcome the current health crisis, the entire region, including the four MRCs of the Outaouais and the city of Gatineau, needs attractive salaries and working conditions. This is essential to retain healthcare personnel and stop the exodus to Ontario.”

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