



# SOPHIE CHATEL



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PONTIAC

 **WE ARE GETTING A GREEN PLAN! (SEE ON PAGE 2)**

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

From the bottom of my heart, thank you Pontiac, for your trust. As we travelled to the four corners of our riding, it was a privilege to hear your stories and concerns. The challenges we face are great, but our communities are strong. Everywhere I went, I met innovative entrepreneurs, visionary municipal leaders, dedicated community activists and hard-working single mothers who put their children first.

I'm new to politics, but my philosophy intersects with *ubuntu*: I am who *I* am, because of who *we* are. Pontiac is extremely diverse. The challenges in the north are very different from those in the west or urban south. That's why, as a Member of

Parliament, I will take every opportunity to leave the Hill and travel our vast riding. So don't be surprised if I show up unannounced at your coffee shop or offer to shake your hand (or bump your elbow) at a local festival! To represent you well, I need to be close to you. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your communities.

Your MP,

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### UNITED TO SERVE PONTIAC

After my election, my first priority was to build a strong team to support me in my various roles in Parliament, but above all to support you. My team combines unique experience and diverse strengths that will enable me to represent you effectively. You will undoubtedly meet them in our visits across the riding.

From left to right: Joseph Francis, Constituency Assistant; Anick Caron, Constituency Assistant; Olivier Pilon, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer; Sophie Chatel, MP for Pontiac; Joanne Labadie, Constituency Assistant; Francis Beausoleil, Special Assistant; Diane Mathé, Administrative Assistant (absent from picture).





## FOR A GREEN AND PROSPEROUS PONTIAC

*My team and I launched an initiative to fight climate change and secure our prosperity by working with local groups.*

I passed many youthful summers running wild through the forest. My father taught his daughters how to survive in the woods. As a young girl you think nothing of dipping into an icy lake on the first warm day of spring. Still today it's in nature that I feel most grounded and at home. I remember a particularly dark moment at 14 where everything seemed so desperate. As I gazed over the river valley a calming wind rushed through the birch, and I did not feel so alone. We think of nature as our mother, because she can heal our dark thoughts and invisible wounds. Our children and their children must enjoy mother nature's splendour and powers of rejuvenation. I don't want them to associate her with the wrath of storms, floods and fires. That's why my team and I launched an initiative for a Green and Prosperous Pontiac. We need to protect the great outdoors upon which Canada and our future is built.

Extreme flooding in British Columbia follows on natural disasters in our communities— Canadians appreciate the threat of climate change. Yet few communities are prepared for our transition to a low-carbon future. We must act, but how? The "Green and Prosperous Pontiac" initiative is about providing a collective response to the challenge of our time.

Over the next decade, new technologies, extreme weather events and a shift away from fossil fuels will converge into the green economy of the future and change our communities forever. We only have a narrow window to secure our communities from future shocks. The "Green and Prosperous Pontiac" initiative is not my dream; it is our collective aspiration and common burden. Everyone will need to do their part. While I will make every effort to support you, I obviously do not have all the answers. What I can do over the next few months is rally us around Canada's ambitious climate plan. Like generations before us, we know that it is by pooling our ideas and efforts together that we will emerge stronger. Navigating the currents ahead will not be easy, but channeling Nelson Mandela, many of our problems seem intractable, until we solve them.

For more details: [www.Sophie.chatel.libparl.ca](http://www.Sophie.chatel.libparl.ca)



## MY FIRST SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



Following the Speech from the Throne, I had the great honour of rising in the House of Commons for the first time as the MP for Pontiac to reply to the Throne Speech delivered by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Governor General Mary Simon.

During my 20-minute speech, I shared our government's commitment to put an end to COVID-19, make life more affordable for Canadians and tackle climate change head on. To meet the biggest challenge of the 21st century. The government is committed to capping and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the oil and gas sectors, accelerating the transition to carbon neutrality, and protecting our natural lands and waterways.

## A BUSY FIRST FEW MONTHS IN THE RIDING

### • Visit from the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

During Veterans' Week, I not only attended various events throughout the riding, but also had the pleasure of meeting with the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, at The Pepper Pod Retreat Centre for Women Veterans in Chelsea. It was my first opportunity to visit the retreat centre, which has made such a difference for local veterans. Thank you to Lieutenant-Colonel Sandra Perron, founder and CEO of The Pepper Pod, for hosting us.

The government is investing \$914,150 over five years to support the centre's workshops through the Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund.



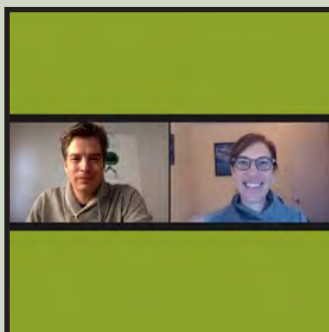
### • The first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Kitigan Zibi

To mark the very first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, I traveled to Maniwaki and Kitigan Zibi to participate in events the Indigenous community organized. My visit started at an information booth about residential schools at the Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre, before participating in a walk at the Kitigan Zibi Cultural Centre to commemorate those who died and to acknowledge the courage of those who survived.

### • Discussions with CREDDO and members of the Boucher Forest Foundation

Right from the start of my mandate, I made a point of meeting key environmental stakeholders, including Benoit Delage, Executive Director of CREDDO, and Christina Richard and Maxime Chaumont-Lessard of the Boucher Forest Foundation. Our conversations ranged across various subjects, from protecting wetlands to planting trees and improving public transportation in under-served rural areas.

The Boucher Forest Foundation representatives recounted their challenges in protecting the area surrounding the Park, and their plans to create more walking paths and three recreation hubs. Thanks for your hard work for local residents!



### • Fall tour in the MRC Pontiac

Over Thanksgiving weekend, my husband and I took the opportunity to tour western Pontiac, following the route recommended by Outaouais Plein Air. Our trek took us to the restaurant La Jonction, Willow Lane Alpacas, Potager Eardley, the Little Red Wagon Winery and Café Downtown. Fall colors offered a great couple getaway, and I enjoyed meeting some wonderful entrepreneurs in the MRC Pontiac. The pandemic hit us hard, but they were resilient and contribute so much to our communities



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

On November 7, throughout Pontiac, municipal elections took place. I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all the municipal councillors and mayors who were elected in more than 40 municipalities across the riding. Everyone that took the brave step of putting their names forward for public service deserves a round of applause.

I want to particularly congratulate the three wardens of our riding: Chantal Lamarche (MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau), Jane Toller (MRC Pontiac) and Marc Carrière (MRC Collines-de-l'Outaouais) and it's my hope that by working together, we can accomplish great things.

## SPOTLIGHT ON INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE IN THE RIDING

### Allout: An inspiring example for how to combine entrepreneurship with passion

Our riding's future depends upon young entrepreneurs. That's why I felt it was important to highlight our very own Joshua Lacroix. This remarkable teenager from Maniwaki has made an innovative line of new sportswear. Congratulations to Joshua and all the people who contributed to this prospering local business! Do you want to learn more about the Allout clothing line, or stay up to date with the latest developments of Joshua's team? Check out their Facebook page: @Alloutclothing.



### Literature in the spotlight at the 7th annual Wakefield-La Pêche Writers Festival

This October brought another chapter in the Wakefield-La Pêche Writers Festival. An impressive stable of authors, including the one and only Michel Jean, as well as many local authors presented their poems, plays, short stories and songs.

I am pleased to announce that this year's festival received \$20,000 from the federal government's Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program, recognizing its contribution to fighting discrimination and embracing diversity.

*Our best wishes for the new year !*



***“May this drum,  
the heart of our Earth,  
give rhythm to our dearest  
wish to preserve our  
environment and our deep  
roots in her soil.  
And may the wisdom of the  
Ancients give us the strength  
so that our gaze may be  
directed towards the future,  
with the fire  
of a galloping horse!”***

**— Nathalie Coutou**

A fantastic inscription to accompany a work of art that really speaks to me; I present to you a thumbnail of “Guardians of the North”. This was painted by Nathalie Coutou, a Métis artist from the KHEWA art gallery in La Pêche (Wakefield).

My team and I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a wonderful new year full of health and happiness.