



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA



# Sophie CHATEL

Member of Parliament  
for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi

November 2024

## Door-to-door in Maniwaki

In early September, I was in Maniwaki with my team to meet our constituents. Thank you, as always, for your warm welcome. Among the memorable encounters was Paul and Nathalie, a couple in their 60s tending to their beautiful garden with their dog Pepper.

Paul, a land surveyor, shared his thoughts on the challenges faced by the private sector in attracting the next generation of workers, the need to strengthen resilience in the workplace, and the competition that public sector jobs represent. As we celebrate Small Business Month this October, it is important to recognize that these businesses are the bedrock of our communities and economy.

*If you are an entrepreneur, visit my website (section Our Services/ Programs Research) to explore the various resources available to help you start, grow, and thrive.*



## Closure of Resolute Forest Products

I was deeply shaken by the news of the upcoming closure of Resolute Forest Products in Maniwaki for at least six months. Losing a job is a challenging experience for individuals and their families, but we have a social safety net designed to help these workers bounce back during these difficult times. Useful links to financial aid, training, and reintegration resources are available on my website (Services/ Programs List section). I have spoken with Resolute's managers to address the situation. It is essential to modernize the forestry sector, making it stronger, more resilient against adverse conditions, and diversifying it by increasing wood processing here in Quebec.



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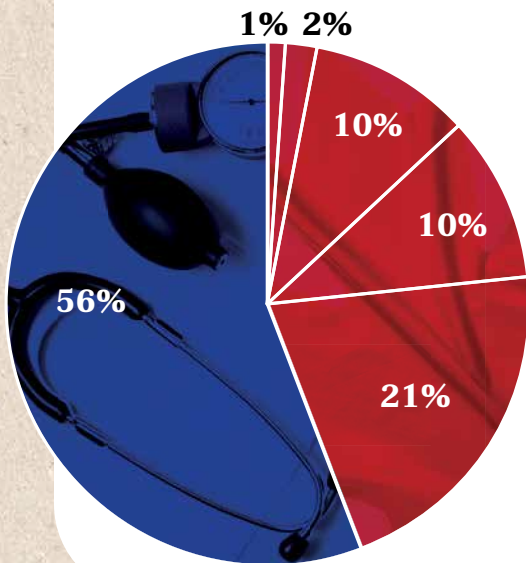
# Access to Healthcare for All!

As your voice, I advocate for our community to have access to the healthcare services it needs. According to the Observatoire du développement de l'Outaouais, our region is underfunded by 25% annually.

If the province fails to act, a conservative government could push for privatization. While the private sector can support public services, not everyone can afford privatized healthcare. We must prioritize people's health over corporate profits, which is why healthcare must remain a public service.

The federal government covers about 45% of the province's healthcare expenses, but it is the province's responsibility to ensure that its entire population has access to the healthcare it needs.

Here is the 2023 - 2024 breakdown:



- **21% through the Canada Health Transfer:** Quebec received \$10.9 billion.
- **10% through the health care portion of the equalization payments:** If Quebec allocates the same percentage of the \$14 billion in equalization payments to healthcare as it currently does in its health budget (38%), this would account for 10% of the total healthcare funding.
- **10% in tax points (estimation):** In 1977, the federal government reduced its tax rates to allow provinces to increase theirs and directly fund healthcare.
- **2% through bilateral funding:** Additional investments in home care, community care, and mental health.
- **1% for pediatric emergency services:** \$2 billion for these services.
- **56% financed by Quebec.**



## Enhancing Our Seniors' Pension and Growing Our Economy

Our rural communities are facing a shortage of skilled workers. Seniors aged 65 and over, with their valuable experience, are often discouraged from continuing to work due to the senior pension benefits plan. For the past year, I have been working with the Quebec Caucus, the Rural Caucus, and the government to revise this plan, ensuring that those who choose to work beyond retirement age do not face pension reductions. At the same time, our proposal is to strengthen support for our most vulnerable seniors, so that everyone can retire with dignity. Unlike the proposals from the Bloc and the Conservatives, which would increase the deficit by \$16 billion to give, among other things, \$60 per month to seniors earning over \$100,000, my proposal is fiscally responsible, helps vulnerable seniors, and supports our economy.



Walk in Maniwaki for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation