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Member of Parliament for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi

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Securing our future

As we look toward an economic recovery in 2025, our priority remains ensuring that everyone willing to work hard can access a job that matches their potential, and that our entrepreneurs have the tools to fully realize their ambitions.

However, a challenge looms on the horizon: the threat of tariffs announced by President-elect Trump. In the face of this turbulence, our government, in collaboration with the provinces and an experienced Team Canada, is committed to acting with determination, unity, and diplomacy to protect Canada's economic interests. I remain confident that we will overcome this challenge. Yet, it is clear that we must strengthen our economic autonomy and diversify our trade relationships to build a more resilient future.

Securing our economic future also means protecting the foundations that support it. A strong economy depends on a healthy environment. Preserving our ecosystems helps prevent wildfires, floods, and droughts that threaten our communities and resources. Nature remains our greatest ally in the fight against climate change and a key driver for regional agriculture and tourism.

Over the past three years, with your support, I am proud of what we have accomplished:

- The legislation to protect **Gatineau Park**;
- Funding for the preliminary phase of the Gatineau **Tramway** project;
- The Indigenous-led **Kidjimaninan** initiative, which preserves our most biodiverse natural spaces;
- The **economic roundtables**, which contributed to reducing the GST on rental housing;
- The construction of hundreds of new homes;
- The renewal of essential programs for our **local media**;
- A strong advocacy for a national strategy on **agriculture** and **food security**.

My vision has always been for a **green and prosperous Outaouais**. Thank you for your trust. I wish you a **wonderful 2025**, filled with health, prosperity, and our collective efforts to secure our future.



Protecting Gatineau Park: A Big Step for a Green and Prosperous Outaouais

One of my proudest achievements in Parliament is Bill S-289, a Bill I introduced with Senator Rosa Galvez to give Gatineau Park the legal protections it needs.

With input from the Kitigan Zibi community, environmental groups, local municipalities, and the NCC, this bill protects Gatineau Park's natural beauty for all Canadians, securing its boundaries and strengthening collaboration with the NCC, the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation, and surrounding communities.

Protecting Gatineau Park is not just about conservation; it is about supporting our local economy and quality of life. Each year, Gatineau Park attracts 2.6 million visitors, bringing \$184 million to our local communities and supporting nearly 5,000 jobs. Gatineau Park's contribution already rivals that of many protected areas. By giving it legal protection, we can boost its appeal as a sustainable destination for ecotourism, opening new opportunities for economic growth across our region.

We are already seeing how investments in our parks pay off, like the 2022 federal investment of \$100,000 in **31-Mile Lake Regional Park** in the municipalities of Délage, Bouchette and Gracefield. This funding helped enhance facilities and attract more visitors.

Our natural beauty drives real opportunity and economic strength for generations to come.



To learn more, visit my website sophiechatel.ca



Protecting Our Land, Building Our Future

I am proud of my work alongside the Kitigan Zibi community, regional elected representatives, environmental groups, and devoted citizens to protect the rich biodiversity of our beautiful Outaouais region. With shared commitment and support, we secured a \$2 million investment from our government for the Kidjīmāninān project, meaning "in a canoe, together." Led by the Kitigan Zibi community, this initiative aims to protect key biodiversity hotspots across the Outaouais region by 2030.

Our economy is deeply rooted in the strength of our natural infrastructure. By investing in conservation, we are not only preserving these spaces but creating economic opportunities. Protected areas draw tourism, create jobs, and build resilience. This approach also provides long-term certainty for housing developers and the forestry industry.

Kidjīmāninān embodies the spirit of unity, balancing Indigenous leadership with regional collaboration to tackle our region's challenges.

This partnership is building a future where economic growth and environmental protection go hand in hand, strengthening our shared land.



The Gatineau-Ottawa Tramway: On Track for a Sustainable Future!

In response to population growth, the Gatineau-Ottawa tramway is essential to meeting mobility needs while improving quality of life and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Supported by robust funding, this project aims to provide sustainable and efficient transportation between Gatineau and Ottawa.

I am extremely proud of the work accomplished in collaboration with Mayor Maude Marquis-Bissonnette and the Coalition S'Allier pour le Tramway.

Thanks to our perseverance, the government announced, in its December 16 economic statement, full funding of \$31 million for preliminary studies on the Ottawa portion of the tramway, which will cross the Ottawa River via the Portage Bridge.

This funding adds to the \$65 million already allocated federally for studies on the Quebec portion.

The 24 km tramway network, connecting Gatineau's west end to downtown Ottawa, will transport up to 5,000 people per hour, per direction. This modern infrastructure will significantly reduce urban congestion, a major issue in our city. In Gatineau, where 44% of greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation, the tramway will play a key role in achieving climate targets.

With a joint Canada-Quebec investment of nearly \$200 million, rigorous studies will ensure optimal planning. Given the projected 76% population increase in Gatineau's west end by 2051, this project represents a sustainable vision for our region.



Supporting Our Farmers to Grow a Stronger Economy and Protect Our Land

Agriculture is a pillar of our economy and essential for food security and environmental stewardship.

This year, I had the honour of leading a discussion on these issues with Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau at the beautiful Little Red Wagon vineyard in Shawville, Quebec. Through collaboration with the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce and the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA), we brought together local entrepreneurs and farmers to address key issues such as fair pricing, incentives for buying local, support for Canadian beef producers, and ways to encourage and support the next generation of farmers.

I would like to thank farmers across Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi who welcomed me to their farms and helped me better understand their unique challenges. Over the last three years, I have visited many farms across the region and met over 100 farmers. These constructive visits include Glad Crest Farms, a beautiful dairy farm in Shawville with a longstanding engagement in the community; Ferme Stépido in Luskville, a family-run dairy farm with a longstanding tradition in Holstein breeding; Ferme Edward O'Brien in Chapeau, a multi-generational family farm with unique sustainable crop cultivation practices; RM Lang Farm in Shawville, known for its large-scale crop cultivation and farming services; Les Serres Paul Amyotte, a greenhouse operation specializing in fresh, local produce; and Ferme Danis in Montcerf-Lytton, focused on high-quality beef production.

Through these visits, I gained valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of our region's farming community. This experience enriches my work as Chair of the Rural Caucus, allowing me to drive essential discussions on food security and advocate for measures that strengthen Canada's agricultural capacity, providing better support for those who feed our communities.



Points saillants de mon travail en tant que votre députée

Au cours de la dernière année, je me suis consacrée à représenter notre communauté, tant au Parlement que dans la circonscription.

Voici un aperçu de quelques points saillants :

- J'ai rédigé et présenté au Sénat le **projet de loi S-289** pour établir et protéger le parc de la Gatineau.
- En tant que membre du Comité de l'environnement et du Comité des affaires étrangères, j'ai participé à **102** réunions de comité, contribuant aux discussions clés sur des enjeux qui nous concernent tous.
- J'ai voté plus de **300** fois sur des projets de loi, assurant que les valeurs et les priorités de notre communauté soient représentées au Parlement.
- En plus de mes fonctions parlementaires, j'ai participé à plus de **160** événements et activités dans la circonscription, établissant un lien direct avec notre communauté.
- J'ai envoyé **6** bulletins de programmes pour informer les leaders communautaires des nouveaux programmes.
- J'ai complété **55** recherches de programmes pour soutenir diverses initiatives et projets dans la circonscription.
- J'ai répondu personnellement et de manière substantielle à plus de **1000** de vos correspondances, assurant que vos voix soient entendues.
- Mon équipe et moi avons soutenu plus de **520** dossiers de citoyens, apportant de l'aide sur des questions liées à Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada; à l'Agence du revenu du Canada; à Service Canada; au système de paie Phénix, et bien d'autres.

Highlights of My Work as Your MP

Over the past year, I have been dedicated to representing our community both in Parliament and across the riding. Here is a snapshot of some key highlights of this year:

- I drafted and introduced Senate **Bill S-289** to establish and protect Gatineau Park.
- As a member of the Committee on Environment and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I have attended **102** committee meetings, contributing to key discussions on issues that matter to us all.
- I cast my vote over **300** times on legislation, ensuring our community's values and priorities are represented in Parliament.
- In addition to my parliamentary duties, I have participated in over **160** events and activities within the riding, connecting directly with our community.
- I sent out **6** program bulletins to keep community leaders informed about new programs.
- I completed **55** program research requests to support various initiatives and projects in the riding.
- I responded personally and substantially to over **1000** of your correspondences, ensuring your voices are heard.
- My team and I have supported over **520** citizen files, assisting with issues related to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; Canada Revenue Agency; Service Canada; the Phoenix pay system, and more.

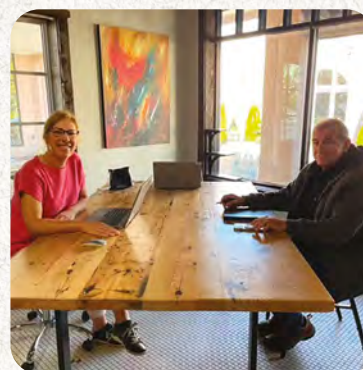


Je suis votre voix au Parlement • I am your voice in Parliament



Signing the SOS Outaouais manifesto on health equity in Gatineau.

Signant le manifeste de SOS Outaouais sur l'équité en santé à Gatineau.



Discussing key priorities of the Kitigan Zibi community with new Chief Jean-Guy Whiteduck.

Discutant des priorités de la communauté Kitigan Zibi avec le nouveau chef Jean-Guy Whiteduck.

Points saillants de nos investissements dans la circonscription

Notre gouvernement a financé plus de **30** projets incroyables dans la circonscription soutenant l'innovation locale et la croissance économique.

Parmi ces investissements clés, on retrouve :

- Près de **100 millions** de dollars investis pour la phase préparatoire du projet de tramway à Gatineau.
- **5 millions de dollars** par le biais de l'Initiative pour la création rapide de logements pour le projet Habitants au Cœur de la Vallée à Gracefield.
- Un investissement de **2 millions de dollars** pour le projet Kidjimaninan, une initiative régionale de collaboration en matière de biodiversité menée par Kitigan Zibi.
- **35 millions de dollars** à la Ville de Gatineau pour des travaux routiers sur le chemin Pink et le boulevard De La Vérendrye.
- **1 million de dollars** en subventions diverses pour le Programme Emplois d'été Canada à travers la circonscription.
- 500 000 dollars en collaboration avec la Fédération canadienne des municipalités pour le projet Horizons Partagés mené par le CREDDO.
- **350 000 dollars** pour le transport actif dans la région de l'Outaouais.
- **303 528 dollars** en financement fédéral par le biais du Programme Nouveaux Horizons pour les aînés pour 16 projets répartis dans toute la circonscription.
- **6,4 millions de dollars** dédiés au logement étudiant à l'Université du Québec en Outaouais.
- **100 000 dollars** pour soutenir le développement touristique des Chalets Prunella à Thorne (Ladysmith).
- **100 000 dollars** par le biais de DEC pour soutenir Samonix Inc. à Litchfield pour des études préliminaires en aquaculture de saumon terrestre.
- **200 000 dollars** par DEC pour soutenir une entreprise biomédicale à Gatineau.
- **250 000 dollars** par DEC pour soutenir le développement touristique des Mini Chalets HOM.
- **207 500 dollars** par DEC pour soutenir le projet de développement touristique de Chelsea Square.
- **200 000 dollars** par DEC pour soutenir le développement de la microbrasserie Chelsea & Co.

Highlights of our investments in our region

We have funded more than **30** incredible projects in the riding, boosting local innovation and economic growth. Key investments among these include:

- Nearly **\$100 million** invested in the preparatory phase of the Gatineau Tramway project.
- **\$5 million** through the Rapid Housing Initiative for the Habitants at the Heart of the Valley project in Gracefield.
- **\$2 million** investment to the Kidjimaninan Project, an Anishinabeg led Regional Biodiversity Protection.
- **\$35 million** to the City of Gatineau for road work on Pink Road and La Vérendrye Boulevard
- **\$1 million** in various grants for the Canada Summer Jobs Program throughout the riding
- **\$500,000** in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the Horizons Partagés project led by CREDDO.
- **\$350,000** in active transportation in the Outaouais region.
- **\$303,528** in federal funding through the New Horizons for Seniors Program for 16 projects spread across the riding.
- **\$6.4 million** dedicated to student housing at the Université du Québec en Outaouais.
- **\$100,000** to support tourism development at Chalets Prunella in Thorne (Ladysmith).
- **\$100,000** through CED to support Samonix Inc. in Litchfield for preliminary studies in land-based salmon aquaculture.
- **\$200,000** through CED to support a biomedical company in Gatineau.
- **\$250,000** through CED to support to support tourism development at HOM Mini Chalets.
- **\$207,500** through CED to support the tourism development project of Chelsea Square.
- **\$200,000** through CED to support the development of Chelsea & Co Microbrasserie.

Je nous souhaite à toutes et à tous une année 2025 de paix et de prospérité !



Advocating for the Gatineau/Ottawa tramway.

Plaidoyer pour le tramway Gatineau/Ottawa.

Addressing the significant impact of the upcoming Rolute mill closure with the "Forestry Crisis Unit."

Je m'occupe de l'impact significatif de la fermeture prochaine de l'usine de Résolu avec la «cellule de crise forestière».



Securing funding of \$500,000 for the launch of "Shared Horizons," a plug-in hybrid car-sharing project for Chelsea and Wakefield.

Obtention d'un financement de 500,000\$ pour le lancement de « Horizons Partagés », un projet de partage de voitures hybrides rechargeables pour Chelsea et Wakefield.