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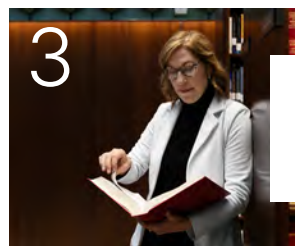
**SOPHIE CHATEL**

DÉPUTÉE DE PONTIAC-KITIGAN ZIBI  
MP FOR PONTIAC-KITIGAN ZIBI



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

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## Message from Your Member of Parliament

The happiness and success of an individual begins with quality employment and a healthy environment. The economic recovery of 2025 will offer concrete opportunities for workers of all ages willing to invest their efforts to find jobs that match their potential and for entrepreneurs to realize their ambitions. However, a challenge looms on the horizon with the threat of tariffs proposed by President-elect Trump. In the face of this turbulence, our government, in collaboration with the provinces and a seasoned Team Canada, is acting with determination and diplomacy to protect our economic interests.

A strong economy rests on solid foundations: our land and resources. By identifying areas to protect, we can responsibly harness our lands, ensuring a balance between economic growth and ecological preservation. This balance is essential because achieving our biodiversity protection goals and developing sustainable forestry will open doors to markets like Europe for softwood lumber — a significant advantage amid trade tensions with the United States.

Moreover, rigorous land management will enable developers to confidently build the housing we need. Protecting our environment also means anticipating climate challenges like wildfires, floods, and droughts, which strain our resources. Nature is our greatest ally in the fight against climate change and a vital economic driver for regional ecotourism and agriculture.

It is with this approach that I take pride in my record over the past three years: the bill to protect Gatineau Park and the Indigenous initiative Kidjīmāninān (“Our Canoe”), which aim to identify and preserve natural areas of high biodiversity value; the economic roundtables that contributed to the reduction of GST on rental properties; and strong advocacy for a national strategy on agriculture and food security.



My vision has always been of an Outaouais that is both green and prosperous. Prosperity—today and for the future—is at the heart of each of my initiatives. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me over the past three years. You can always count on my unwavering commitment to building a strong regional economy firmly rooted in an ecological framework that protects our shared future.

## Gatineau Park

### Protecting the Gatineau Park

**One of my greatest accomplishments in Parliament is Bill S-289, which I introduced alongside Senator Rosa Galvez to provide Gatineau Park with the legal protections it needs.**

With contributions from the Kitigan Zibi community, environmental groups, local municipalities, and the NCC (National Capital Commission), this bill safeguards the natural beauty of Gatineau Park for all Canadians by 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 also a way to support our local economy and enhance the quality of life in our region. Each year, the park attracts 2.6 million visitors, generates \$184 million in our communities, and supports nearly 5,000 jobs. Gatineau Park's contribution already rivals that of many protected areas. By granting it legal protection, we can enhance its appeal as a sustainable ecotourism destination, creating new opportunities for economic growth in our region.

Our natural beauty generates real opportunities and economic strength for generations to come.





## Biodiversity: Kidjīmāninān Project

### Protecting Our Land, Building Our Future

#### Economic Prosperity Relies on Ecological Health

The future of our resources, agriculture, forestry, and overall well-being depends on environmental preservation. That's why, following my election in 2021, I launched the Green and Prosperous Outaouais project to consult the community and propose innovative solutions. Ahead of COP15 in Montreal, I organized a regional COP15 in November 2022 to discuss actions needed to protect our biodiversity. Around 60 participants, including elected officials and environmental stakeholders, contributed to this reflection. Since then, a biodiversity committee—bringing together Indigenous guardians and conservation organizations—has been established, culminating in the *Kidjīmāninān* project, led by the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community.

I am proud of my work alongside the Kitigan Zibi community, elected representatives, environmental groups, and engaged citizens to protect the rich biodiversity of our beautiful Outaouais region. Through our shared commitment and support, we secured a \$2 million investment from our government for the *Kidjīmāninān project*, which means "Our Canoe." This initiative, spearheaded by the Kitigan Zibi community, aims to protect key biodiversity hotspots in the Outaouais region by 2030.



*Our economy is deeply rooted in the strength of our natural environment. By investing in conservation, we not only preserve these spaces but also create real economic opportunities for our communities. Protected areas attract tourism, generate jobs, and enhance our resilience to climate change.*



This approach also provides long-term certainty for real estate developers and the forestry sector.

**Kidjīmāninān** embodies the spirit of unity, balancing Indigenous leadership with regional collaboration to address the challenges of our region. This partnership builds a future where economic growth and environmental protection go hand in hand, strengthening our shared territory.



## 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.





# Health

## Improving Access to Healthcare in the Outaouais

**We know that the healthcare crisis has raged in the Outaouais this year. That said, health is primarily provincial jurisdiction, and I greatly respect that.**

Exceptionally, I brought the voices of my constituents to Quebec's Minister of Health, Christian Dubé, because healthcare is a priority. The Outaouais has too often been overlooked when it comes to services. That is why I joined my provincial colleagues from the Outaouais in urging the Quebec government to take urgent measures to prevent a breakdown in healthcare services in our region and to ensure sustainable access to healthcare in the Outaouais.

I had the opportunity to participate in several interviews on this subject, and the key takeaway is that our message of solidarity resonated all the way to the minister's office. In the face of this crisis, standing idly by was unthinkable. You can find my letter on my [website](#).

I also proudly signed the SOS Outaouais manifesto, adding my voice to those calling for concrete actions to achieve equity in healthcare in our region.

Five years after the unique needs of the Outaouais were recognized by the Quebec National Assembly, we are still waiting for fair support for our healthcare professionals, appropriate infrastructure, and a plan to retain talent. Together, let's continue to demand the change that the Outaouais deserves.







## Parliamentary Affairs

### Committee Participation: Finance, Environment, and Foreign Affairs

As a member of the [Environment Committee](#), I had the privilege of contributing to several important studies this year.

One of them, which deeply resonated with me, was on [sustainable finance](#). I am also contributing to a similar study on the [Finance Committee](#). These studies have strengthened my personal belief that there is no economic health without ecological health.

Through consultations with experts in sustainable finance, I was reminded of the urgency and potential of aligning our financial systems with environmental goals to build a resilient and sustainable future. In 2024, over \$3 trillion in global capital was invested in clean energy projects and green initiatives.

My role in committee is to ensure that Canada secures a significant share of these investments to propel our economy towards a sustainable and prosperous future! Within the [Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee](#), I had the honour of proposing and contributing to the study on [Canada's Approach to Africa](#). This study aimed to strengthen the foundations of Canada's partnerships with African nations, rooting them in mutual respect and common aspirations.

Another deeply impactful study focused on [Canada's Advancement of a Two-State Solution](#), conducted as the conflict in Gaza escalated to tragic levels. I am proud of the committee's commitment to this vital issue and remain optimistic that our final report will recommend the recognition of the State of Palestine by Canada and renewed negotiations for lasting peace.



[sophiechatel.ca](https://sophiechatel.ca)



## A Victory for Our Local Media

**Community newspapers are not just a source of information: they are at the heart of our communities. Through their pages, they share the stories that matter to our families, neighbours, and local organizations. They allow us to connect, stay informed, and sometimes challenge us to do better.**

I have worked alongside media groups to renew the Local Journalism Initiative, among other efforts. Last March, when I was the Chair of the Rural Caucus, I was delighted to announce, with the Honourable Pascale St-Onge, Member of Parliament for Brome-Missisquoi and Minister of Heritage, that our government had renewed its commitment to the Local Journalism Initiative. This renewal was especially close to my heart, and I advocated for this cause on behalf of democracy. The work done together here in the Outaouais helped save many local radio stations and newspapers across the country.

But our work is not finished. I continue to collaborate with my fellow Liberal MPs from rural areas to advocate for a significant portion of the government's advertising budget to be allocated to local media, which currently receive little or no funding. I remain determined to support policies that will ensure the sustainability of local media, as a strong press is essential to dynamic communities.





## Agriculture

### Supporting Our Farmers for Food Security

**Agriculture is a pillar of our economy and essential to food security as well as the preservation of our environment.**

This year, I had the honour of leading a discussion on these issues with the Minister of National Revenue, Marie-Claude Bibeau, at the beautiful Petit Chariot Rouge vineyard in Shawville, Quebec. In 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 want to thank the farmers of Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi who welcomed me onto their farms and helped me better understand their unique challenges. Over the past three years, I have visited many farms in the region and met with more than 100 farmers. These constructive visits included Glad Crest Farms, a beautiful dairy farm in Shawville that has long been involved in the community; Ferme Stépido in Luskville, a family dairy farm with a well-established tradition of Holstein breeding; Ferme Edward O'Brien in Chapeau, a multi-generational family farm with unique sustainable farming practices; RM Lang Farm in Shawville, known for large-scale crop production and agricultural services; Les Serres Paul Amyotte, a greenhouse operation specializing in fresh, local produce; and Ferme Danis in Montcerf-Lytton, focused on producing high-quality beef.



*Through these visits, I gained valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of our region's farming community.*

I took this opportunity to promote essential discussions on food security, advocating for increased support for the Canadian agricultural sector and those who feed our communities. By prioritizing sustainable practices and investing in our farmers, we can create a resilient economy and build a future where communities thrive, our environment is protected, and all Canadians have access to healthy, local food.





## Supporting Our Entrepreneurs

### MANIWAKI

SMEs and our entrepreneurs are essential to the local economy: they create jobs, support services, foster innovation, and strengthen social cohesion.

As part of this priority, earlier this year, I organized a roundtable in Maniwaki with Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Minister of Tourism and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, focusing on the specific challenges faced by the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau. Together, these discussions highlighted key priorities such as housing, tourism, and regional economic development. We also identified growth opportunities specific to the prosperity of our region. The lively and constructive discussion allowed for the exchange of ideas and visions for regional development. The Minister's presence added significant value to this meeting, reinforcing our commitment to prosperity and collaboration in the region.





# Supporting Our Entrepreneurs

## Gatineau

The second roundtable I organized, as Chair of the Outaouais Caucus, brought together elected officials and key stakeholders from the region. We focused on four major issues for the Outaouais: urban/rural housing, tourism, transportation, and regional economic development.

The goal was to exchange ideas on these important issues and find solutions to help us present our recommendations to the Minister of Finance during the 2024 pre-budget consultations. Following these discussions, we formulated concrete budgetary recommendations for targeted initiatives aimed at: strengthening the integration and connectivity of various public transit networks; retaining skilled workers over the age of 65; supporting the growing eco and recreational tourism sector; investing in municipal infrastructure and the densification of village centers; and improving access to housing for young people while stimulating housing construction through tax incentives. Many of these priorities are now part of the 2024 Federal Budget, titled “Fairness for Every Generation”.

Visit my [website](#) to learn more about our government’s economic investments in the Pontiac since 2020. Together, we are building a stronger and more dynamic Outaouais!



# My Year in Statistics

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**My work as an MP is not just about being present in the House; it is primarily about being in service to my constituents. This includes not only attending numerous events but also taking concrete actions to address the needs of my community. Being an MP means being attentive, supporting local initiatives, and working tirelessly to improve the daily lives of my constituents.**

In 2024, I had the privilege of attending many events and projects that have marked our community, our province, and our country. From our communities to large national gatherings, each occasion was an opportunity to meet engaged citizens, support inspiring initiatives, and share precious moments.

Whether it was celebrating local traditions, promoting innovative projects, or advocating for important issues, my presence in the field has been at the heart of my commitment. Each meeting, each visit, and each event has deepened my understanding of the needs and aspirations of those I represent.



## 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:

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- As a member of the Standing Committees on Environment and 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.
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*My team and I, along with Benoit Delage from CREDDO, John McDonnell, and Geneviève LeBlanc from the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Outaouais Valley branch, paddled down the Noire River to celebrate the progress of the \$650,000 federal funding aimed at creating a 115,000-hectare protected area in the Pontiac MRC.*

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## Our government has funded over 30 incredible projects in the riding supporting local innovation and economic growth. Among these key investments are:

- **\$2 million** investment to the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg led Regional Biodiversity Protection and Collaboration Initiative for their Kidjimaninan project.
- **\$5 million** through the Rapid Housing Initiative for the Habitants at the Heart of the Valley project in Gracefield.
- **\$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 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.
- **\$900 million** in federal funding to Quebec, which is directly supporting nearly 300 new housing units in the Outaouais, including \$6.4 million dedicated to student housing at the Université du Québec en Outaouais.
- **\$100,000** through Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED) 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.



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*A memorable meeting at the United Nations with Bob Rae, Canada's Ambassador to the organization. This enriching and inspiring conversation focused on the evolving global landscape, particularly the potential impact of the recent*

*U.S. elections on the UN, and the crucial role Canada plays on the international stage.*



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*We are already seeing how investments in our parks are paying off, such as the federal investment of \$100,000 in 2022 in the Lac 31 Milles Regional Park for the municipalities of Déléage, Bouchette, and Gracefield. This support has improved facilities and attracted more visitors.*



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*A special moment with the Joyeux Copains de Montcerf Inc.! These inspiring women warmly welcomed us to discuss support from the New Horizons program. With a \$25,000 investment, they continue to make a positive impact on their community.*



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*My essential participation in the Kitigan Zibi Pow Wow. The Kitigan Zibi community opened its circle of friendship to celebrate the richness of Indigenous culture. Alongside Charlotte Commanda, we shared the joy of seeing people of all generations and communities singing and dancing together.*



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*In June, we had the honour of attending the swearing-in ceremony of Gatineau's new mayor, Maude Marquis-Bissonnette. Her commitment, vision, and determination promise to guide our community toward a green, prosperous, and inclusive future.*



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*I had the honour of participating in the walk in Maniwaki, alongside Mayor Francine Fortin, Terri-Anne Côté, Administrative Assistant to the Director, and David Logue, Board Member of the Maniwaki Indigenous Friendship Centre, to mark National Truth and Reconciliation Day.*



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*An unforgettable moment shared during an Iftar with the Mouride community in Outaouais.*

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*Thanks to an investment of over \$5 million from our government, through the Rapid Housing Initiative, we inaugurated 26 apartments in Gracefield, which will provide shelter to those who need it most: our seniors, low-income individuals, and those with reduced mobility.*



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*Happy to have participated, alongside CREDDO, in the launch of Horizons Partagés, an innovative hybrid car-sharing project, supported by our government through a \$500,000 grant from the Green Municipal Fund of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.*



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*Presentation of a certificate to Cécile Patry, a resident of Gracefield. With her 32 years of volunteer experience and recipient of the Homage to Seniors Award in Quebec, she embodies the strength of volunteerism.*

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*Alongside my colleagues Steven MacKinnon and Suzanne Tremblay, I had the great pleasure of attending the opening of the 30th edition of the Family Gathering, a must-attend event organized by the Lebanese community of Saint Charbel Parish, Ottawa, Maronite Catholic Church.*



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*During the announcement of a repayable contribution of \$200,000 to Qeen Biotechnologies Inc., alongside Nancy Tawil, President. Did you know that this local company is helping save lives through its scientific expertise?*



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*La Fab sur Mill: an important cultural center in our community, offering a variety of performances, from dance to jazz, featuring local artists. I am proud of the contribution from the Government of Canada and the visionary members of our community who transformed this church into a true cultural hub!*

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*A rewarding and productive meeting with the new leader of the Lac Barrière Indigenous community, Casey Ratt, and several members of his council. We discussed the crucial housing needs of the community, with a spirit of collaboration and mutual support for a better future.*



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*Proud of our local gem: MINI TIPI! These women entrepreneurs from the region, Trisha and Mélanie, showcase the beauty and richness of Indigenous cultures. They made an appearance on the iconic show L'Œil du Dragon and won the SME of the Year award in the 1 to 15 employees category.*



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Every February, we have the honour of celebrating Black History Month at the Maison du Citoyen Gatineau. Over the years, this celebration has strengthened the recognition and appreciation of the profound and positive impact of Black culture in our society.

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It is always a true pleasure to celebrate the acquisition of Canadian citizenship by our fellow citizens. A moment filled with pride and emotion, symbolizing their commitment to our wonderful country and the unity that binds us all.



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Our unmissable annual event: the Shawville Fair! It is always a great pleasure to celebrate agriculture with all of you, young and old!





*This summer, we had the pleasure of celebrating our very first event at Chelsea Square: Sundae with your MP!*

*It was an opportunity for people to come enjoy delicious sundaes with family and friends, while discussing their concerns and learning more about local initiatives.*