



SOPHIE CHATEL

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR PONTIAC-KITIGAN ZIBI

September 2025

Build, Build, Build.

The next few months will be challenging. What we face now is not just a transition; it is a rupture in our relationship with our southern neighbour. We didn't want this. Many Americans are suffering from it, but even if President Trump leaves, we need to acknowledge one harsh lesson: we allowed ourselves to become too dependent on the United States.

We need to build Canada strong. We need to not only diversify our trading partners but reorient the axis of our economy from South to East-West and North. Leaders from all parties and levels of government are rallying to Carney's axiom: we can give ourselves more than Trump can take away.

That means investing in ourselves. Yes, expect our budget deficit to jump, but it is to lay the foundations for a bright independent future.

The road ahead will be hard, but it will also be ours to shape, together.



What I most admire about Prime Minister Carney is his calm under fire. He understands the economy unlike any previous Prime Minister. He's never rattled and always keeps his focus on the big picture. While navigating these crosscurrents he keeps our government focused on putting our economy on a pathway towards long-term prosperity.

Over the next six months there will be tough announcements: on the trade front and unemployment numbers. But I want Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi citizens to pay careful attention to our government's investments, many of which are highlighted in this edition. We will cut strategically and invest aggressively. You will see me with a hard hat and a shovel as our government's mantra "**build, build, build**" comes to Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi. And by next year, the haze will start to lift and our investments will start to pay off as the sun rises upon a Canada that is stronger and more secure than before.



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At our National Caucus Retreat, Prime Minister Mark Carney outlined the seven missions of our government:

- 1 Build a new economic and security relationship with the United States and expand trade in Europe and Asia.
- 2 Launch nation-building projects and a Climate Competitiveness Strategy.
- 3 Lower costs: tax relief, affordable child care, dental and pharmacare.
- 4 Make housing affordable through Build Canada Homes.
- 5 Protect sovereignty: Armed Forces pay raise, defence at 2% GDP, safer communities.
- 6 Reset immigration: reduce temporary residents, attract top global talent.
- 7 Spend less, streamline government, unlock private capital.



With Prime Minister Mark Carney

And these priorities are already in action!



Build Canada Homes: Building Faster, More Affordable, Here in the Outaouais

Canada is facing a housing crisis. Too many families – especially young people – are struggling to find an affordable place to call home. That is why Prime Minister Mark Carney launched **Build Canada Homes**, a new federal agency that will change the way we build and access housing.

With an initial investment of **\$13 billion**, **Build Canada Homes** has a mandate to build at scale, quickly and sustainably. It will make use of federal lands, modern construction methods such as prefabricated housing, and work in partnership with provinces, municipalities, and Indigenous communities to deliver concrete results. Already, six priority sites – including Ottawa – will see the construction of **4,000 homes**, with potential for up to **45,000 homes** across the country.

Build Canada Homes also responds directly to homelessness. In Gatineau, where the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased by **268% since 2018**, the new supportive and transitional housing units could provide homes for up to **one in five people** currently without shelter.

By combining investment, public land, and innovation, we are building a stronger and more affordable Outaouais – and making the right to a home a reality.



Major Projects Office – Exciting News for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi

The Prime Minister announced the first priority projects supported by the new Major Projects Office (MPO), which fast-tracks projects of national importance by streamlining approvals and supporting financing.

For our region, the **Alto High-Speed Train** is a historic breakthrough. Connecting Toronto to Quebec City, with a stop in Ottawa and Montreal, it will cut travel times in half, inject billions into the economy, and create tens of thousands of jobs. For Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi, it means faster access to urban centres, more visitors to boost tourism, and opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs.

Quebec will benefit from the expansion of the **Port of Contrecoeur**, which will strengthen the flow of goods, boost competitiveness of our businesses, and create lasting economic growth.

The **West Wind Atlantic Energy project** will tap into **Quebec's clean energy potential**, powering our communities and opening opportunities for exports to the United States.

Together, these projects put Quebec, and Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi, at the heart of Canada's clean energy future and ensure our region plays a key role in building national prosperity.



Strategic Response to Tariffs – Delivering for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi

In September, our Prime Minister announced new measures to support the families, workers, and communities of Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi affected by the tariffs. These include:

- **\$1 billion for SMEs** – More support for SMEs, sawmills, and agri-food producers with financing tools through Canada Economic Development to help keep jobs here at home.
- **\$5 billion Strategic Response Fund** – Providing relief to tariff-impacted industries like forestry, agriculture, and manufacturing to retool, pivot to new markets, and maintain good jobs in our region.
- **Extra EI benefits and training** – Long-tenured workers, particularly in forestry and manufacturing, will gain up to 65 weeks of benefits, plus training and counselling to strengthen skills and transition into good jobs.
- **Enhanced Agri-marketing funding** – A \$75 million top-up to help farmers promote Canadian products abroad, diversify markets, and support long-term growth including for producers in Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi.
- **New Buy Canada Policy** – Requiring federal agencies to buy – a measure with real impact in our region – Canadian will strengthen supply chains, directly support food processors, sawmills, and local suppliers, and create new opportunities for Canadian businesses.





Highlights from the Agriculture Ministers' Conference

In September, I joined the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Conference of Agriculture Ministers in Winnipeg. Agriculture is at the heart of our region's identity and economy. From family farms to agri-food businesses, our producers work tirelessly to put food on our table.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Agri-Food, which enabled me to bring the concerns of Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi's farmers and producers directly to the national table, where we addressed key issues:

Building Resilience

Our producers need programs that are adapted to today's challenges. With climate change, wildfires, and global trade uncertainty affecting farms, we are working to strengthen risk management tools and modernize infrastructure.

Growing Markets

Ministers agreed on measures to support innovation and diversify international markets. For our region, this means opening doors for farmers and agri-food producers to reach new buyers, increase the value of their products, and strengthen Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi's role in Canada's agri-food economy.

Cutting Red Tape

Too often, producers tell me that bureaucracy slows them down. That is why I emphasized the importance of the **federal Red Tape Review**.

By simplifying and modernizing agricultural rules, we reduce paperwork without lowering safety or food standards, giving farmers more time to focus on what truly matters: their businesses, their families, and their future.



Congratulations SADC!

A wonderful dinner on the Gabriel-Marchand Bridge in Mansfield-et-Pontefract celebrating **SADC's 40th anniversary!** For four decades, it has supported entrepreneurs and our local economy. I was proud to announce **\$2.55 million** in funding over the next five years to support the SADC in continuing its important mission. Congratulations to the entire team!