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FOR PONTIAC-KITIGAN ZIBI

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There is a reason President Trump is targeting Canada's agricultural sector: it is essential not only to our daily lives, but also to our economy and national resilience in this trade war. That is why, in this edition, I want to showcase the importance of agriculture right here in Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi, and across Quebec and Canada.

When the Prime Minister asked me to become Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Agri-Food, I accepted without hesitation. Some – perhaps you as well – were surprised, knowing me mostly as a CPA and international tax law expert. Yes, I spent years in global finance and taxation, engaging with major multinationals.

But since becoming the Member of Parliament for Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi, I have grown deeply passionate about agriculture and agri-food.

One question keeps coming back to me: why don't we talk more about our farmers?

The real heroes of our economy are not the CEOs of global corporations. They are our producers – the people who rise early, work the land, and feed the nation. Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector represents:



- 7% of our GDP (\$149.2 billion)
- 2.3 million jobs (1 in 9 Canadians)
- \$102 billion in exports, making Canada the 9th largest agricultural exporter in the world
- And hundreds of thousands of passionate, hard-working people.

These are not just statistics. They are proof of the extraordinary contribution our farmers make to the strength and sovereignty of our country.

Every farmer I met this summer told me how encouraged they are by Canadians choosing local products over American ones. Let's keep that momentum going, by buying directly from farms, shopping at farmers' markets or through Marché Outaouais, and by choosing the "local products" section at grocery stores proudly joining Team Canada.



Visit my **website** today and stay connected with me!
www.sophiechateau.ca

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Or contact my office at 613 995-3950
or 819 775-7970



Let's Talk About Supply Management!

Supply management is the backbone of many rural communities, with over 9,000 family-owned dairy farms nationwide.

It shields Canadians from global pressures by aligning production with demand, ensuring a steady domestic supply, and protecting consumers from shortages and price spikes. It also sustains stable jobs and strengthens our local economies. In Pontiac, family dairy farms, together with the Laiterie de l'Outaouais, not only create good jobs but also provide food security. Communities like ours have every reason to stand behind it.

Key facts

The U.S. ships ~50M litres of milk equivalents to Canada **tariff-free** each year.

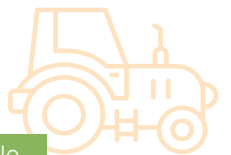
Canada runs a **growing dairy trade deficit** with the U.S.; their exports here are **up 60%** since 2021.

Supply-managed dairy, poultry, and eggs support **hundreds of thousands of jobs** and **add tens of billions** to GDP.



Canadian dairy prices have risen at or **below overall food inflation**, avoiding U.S.-style price swings.

Local products are **available in every province**, from milk to poultry and eggs.



Glad Crest Farms • Shawville



Ferme Pure Conscience • Bristol



Ferme Stepido • Luskville





Agri-Food Innovation and Leadership

This summer, as Parliamentary Secretary, I met with agri-food leaders across Quebec who are shaping the future of food through collaboration, sustainability, and innovation.

In Sainte-Julie, I visited the *Groupe Export Agroalimentaire*, which helps Quebec exporters bring their products to national and global markets. In Granby, the *Conseil de la transformation alimentaire du Québec* (CTAQ) supports food processors and drives sustainable industry growth. In Estrie, the *Syndicat de la relève agricole* brings together young producers building the next generation of farming.



In Trois-Rivières, *District Lupel* is cultivating a food ecosystem rooted in circular economy, eco-responsibility, and entrepreneurship.

And in Québec City, I toured *Maison Orphée*, a company that has become a leader in local food processing, selling oils, condiments, and vinaigrettes across Canada.



These initiatives strengthen food security by supporting innovation, local production, and leadership across the supply chain, from farm to table.



Food Security and Improving Access to Food

Another focus of my travels this summer was to meet with organizations working every day to improve food access.



In Sherbrooke, I visited *Moisson Estrie*, which serves the entire Estrie region by redistributing food and offering a welcoming grocery-style experience for those in need. In Québec City, *La Bouchée généreuse* combines a food bank, thrift store, and an affordable grocery store, helping over 1,300 families each week.

I also visited the *Grand Marché de Québec*, a public market connecting more than 100 local producers with consumers and advancing food autonomy through proximity, sustainability, and community connection.

Their work shows how local leadership is essential to making food security real for Canadians.



Farmers and Local Producers

While travelling this summer, I met with family-run farms like *Intermiel* in Mirabel, where a passion for bees has grown into a thriving agritourism business producing honey, maple syrup, and mead, while educating visitors about pollinators and sustainability.



In Louiseville, at *Jardins Ricard*, a sixth-generation farm cultivating vegetables and milling buckwheat flour on-site, I saw how local food traditions are being preserved and passed on. Nearby, at *Ferme Macha*, owned by UPA President Martin Caron, I discovered how a family-run dairy and grain farm maintains strong production while adapting to climate challenges.

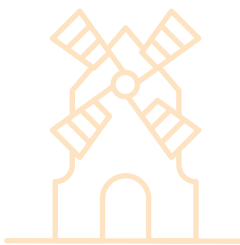
In Sawyerville, I visited *Bergerie Malvibois*, a multigenerational farm where sheep and maple production reflect a deep connection to the land and traditions.

In East Hereford, at *Ferme Piscicole des Bobines*, I saw how sustainable aquaculture can thrive close to home, with eco-friendly trout farming and on-site processing that ensures freshness and quality.



In Trois-Rivières, *L'Ouvrage* is transforming a historic factory into an agri-food innovation centre that gives artisan producers the tools to grow, experiment, and connect with local consumers.

These visits showed how food security and autonomy start with local producers who care for the land and feed our communities.



SURVEY

Agriculture and Agri-Food Survey

Earlier this summer, I asked agriculture producers: **What should the government do to help agriculture and agri-food thrive?**

It's not too late, scan the QR code below!



Add your voice to our survey!

