



SOPHIE CHATEL

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR PONTIAC-KITIGAN ZIBI



*I wish you all a Happy New Year
filled with opportunities and prosperity!*

November 2025

Word from Your MP

This year's federal budget came at a time when many families across Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi have been feeling the pressure of rising costs and global uncertainty. Because of the unjustified tariffs imposed by the American president, much of what we value is being put at risk: our jobs, our businesses, our farmers and the opportunities we want to pass on to our children.



We cannot control the American president. But we can protect our economy and our way of life. That is exactly what this budget sets out to do, and it is working: Canada's economy rebounded in the third quarter with 2.6% growth.

We are tightening our spending so we can build what Canadian workers, farmers and other businesses need to succeed: more affordable homes for young families, ports that keep our goods moving, rail lines and roads that link our towns, and strong energy grids, defence bases, and community infrastructure that will stand for generations. We are also investing in modern technologies in factory and in farm fields: cleaner engines, smarter machines, and new tools that help Canadians produce more right here at home.

Our budget reflects Canadian values of financial responsibility, solidarity and ambition. It builds on our ingenuity and our ability to shape the future we want for our children, together.



Visit my **website** today
and stay connected with me!
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Lowering the Cost of Living for Families

Families across Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi are feeling the pressure of rising prices. That is why we have reduced taxes for 22 million Canadians.

*We have also made the **National School Food Program** permanent, ensuring that more than **400,000 children** receive healthy meals at school every year.*

I have written to the Québec Minister Sonia Lebel to urge her to use our funds and work with organisations like Canada Breakfast Club, La Tablée des Chefs and Moisson Outaouais, who are ready to deliver the food school program into our schools as of January.

Public Service

Many residents of Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi are public service workers who dedicate their careers to serving Canadians: protecting the country from cyberattacks and organized crime; negotiating trade agreements and managing our finances; ensuring Canadian food products maintain their world-class reputation; and collecting essential data, such as on the labour market, investments, or commodity prices, that guide economic decisions.

They deserve our gratitude and a modern workplace that reduces repetitive tasks and enables them to focus on higher-value work. That is why our government is investing in new digital tools and made-in-Canada AI to help the public service deliver efficient, high-quality services.

Recognizing that the public service's growth has outpaced broader population and labour-market trends, our government has committed to scaling back the workforce, largely through normal attrition and voluntary departures to return to a more sustainable size.

We are doing this with care and compassion, working closely with unions to ensure that those who have dedicated many years to serving Canadians are treated with the fairness and respect they deserve.

Still, recognizing the uncertainty this creates, I wrote to the President of the Treasury Board and was able to obtain clarifications for our public servants on workforce reductions and voluntary departure packages for employees aged 50 and over.



Accelerating the Construction of Affordable Housing

Many young residents are worried homeownership is slipping out of reach.

Budget 2025 responds with a bold plan: creating a **new Canadian housing industry** through **Build Canada Homes**, which will double the pace of construction over the next decade using Canadian workers, technology and materials like wood, steel and aluminum, at a scale and speed we have not seen in generations.

What this means here in Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi is that our entrepreneurs and community groups leading innovative housing projects in Gatineau, L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, Maniwaki, Fort-Coulonge, and Chelsea, will be able to double the number of homes they build each year.

I am thinking of Élyse and Christopher, a young teacher and a mechanic I met while door knocking. Like many young people, they dream of buying their first home and starting a family.

With the elimination of GST for first-time buyers on homes under \$1 million and the launch of **Build Canada Homes**, owning a home is starting to feel within reach for them and for so many others.



Investing in Infrastructure for Future Generations

Across Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi, municipalities like Chelsea, L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, Shawville, Cayamant, Fort-Coulonge, Maniwaki and Gatineau have stressed the urgent need for stronger infrastructure: modern water systems, safer roads and resilient community facilities to support new housing and local growth.

Budget 2025 answers that call with the **Build Communities Strong Fund**, a bold new investment to help municipalities move these projects forward.

These investments will help families and seniors stay in their communities, while building the infrastructure needed for thriving and future-ready towns.



Strengthening and Supporting Canadian Materials

Forestry and construction are pillars of our regional economy. The Trump 45% tariffs have hit our sector hard, since nearly 90% of our wood is exported to the United States. As we work to develop new domestic and international markets, we need time to adapt.

That is why our government is strengthening the sector by boosting demand for Canadian wood products through Build Canada Homes, providing **\$1.2 billion** in loan guarantees under the **Softwood Lumber Guarantee Program**, cutting interprovincial freight costs for Canadian lumber by 50%, and delivering stronger protections for forestry workers and businesses.

Boosting Productivity and Innovation

Our region is rich with visionary entrepreneurs who see the incredible potential of the agri-food sector, Canada's largest manufacturing sector and one of the fastest-growing.

Entrepreneurs like Flirt Beverages, La Trappe à Fromage, Moulin Egan, and the new processing line coming to the Laiterie de l'Outaouais are just a few great examples.

That is why I am excited about the **Productivity Super-Deduction** introduced in Budget 2025. This measure will help more agri-food and manufacturing businesses transform our resources here at home, creating jobs and strengthening our regional economy.

Recently, I was shocked to see a jar of pickles made with Canadian cucumbers but processed in Germany!

We need to add value to our agricultural products here at home.

With the Productivity Super-Deduction, investments in equipment, technology, machinery, and facilities will be 100% deductible within the year, making it more affordable and less risky to expand and modernize.



Protecting Canada's Sovereignty and Security

Defence is a major employer in the National Capital Region, and many residents work in engineering, cybersecurity or procurement roles that help keep Canada safe.

*Budget 2025 makes a historic **\$30-billion investment over five years**, raising defence spending to 2 percent of GDP and modernizing bases, equipment and digital infrastructure.*

Marc, a software engineer specializing in cybersecurity in Gatineau, sees this investment creating more contracts for local engineering, construction, and manufacturing firms, and new jobs in advanced systems and technology.

For our region, it also means a stronger federal economic presence and more opportunities for young people to find good, well-paying jobs as they enter the workforce.

