



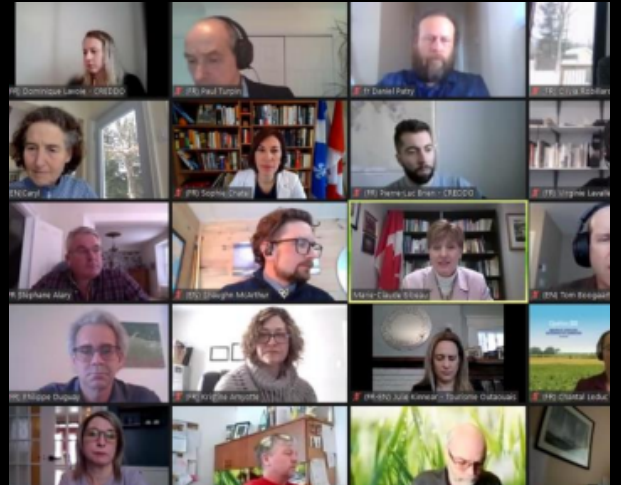
PARLIAMENT | PARLEMENT  
CANADA

Member of Parliament  
Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi  
Sophie Chatel

## *Voice for Agriculture and Agri-Food*

Farmers and producers create world-class food and are a pillar of our rural economy. They deserve fairness, opportunity, and prosperity. Those who feed us should never be left to carry the burden alone.

That's why, following my election in 2021, I made it a priority to begin advocating for the tools and support our agricultural producers need to adapt to a changing climate, strengthen resilient and sustainable farming practices, drive innovation, and safeguard Canada's food security.



## 2022

In 2022, I became **Chair of the Rural Caucus**, taking on a leadership role in advancing the interests of agricultural producers in Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi and across Canada. As Chair, I:

- Advocated for increased support for farmers facing rising input costs, climate pressures, and labour shortages
- Championed agricultural innovation and the transfer of knowledge, technology, and skills to strengthen productivity and sustainability
- Backed the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership, reinforcing farmers' central role in Canada's rural economy and food security.

Throughout the year, I also made a point of meeting directly with farmers and agricultural organizations across Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi, so their day-to-day realities were reflected in federal discussions.

One example is a roundtable on the future of agriculture held under my “Green and Prosperous Outaouais” initiative, where local producers had the opportunity to exchange with the then Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau. The roundtable brought together Outaouais elected officials, CREDDO, and local producers and community organizations to identify practical solutions for a more sustainable agricultural sector.

## 2023

In 2023, I continued serving as Chair of the Rural Caucus, strengthening national advocacy for farmers, fishers, and food producers at a time of growing global uncertainty. In this role, I led efforts to:

- Advance direct support for producers
- Promote ecological goods and services payments
- Strengthen agricultural innovation
- Advocate for the removal of interprovincial trade barriers



Within Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi, I organized a visit from then **Minister of Agriculture and AgriFood, the Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau**, to meet directly with local stakeholders and hear firsthand from our region.

During this visit:

- We announced a \$73,159 investment for Le Grenier des Collines food bank in Valdes-Monts to strengthen local food aid services.
- We participated in roundtable discussions at the Gracefield Community Hall, engaging with municipal leaders, agri-food entrepreneurs, and community organizations from across the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau to address food security, agricultural innovation, tourism, and regional economic development

These discussions ensured that federal decision-makers heard directly from our region and helped align national agricultural policy with the realities of rural communities.

## 2024

During my final year as **Chair of the Rural Caucus**, I continued advocating for the need to support farmers in the face of climate change, remove interprovincial trade barriers, strengthen Canada's food security, and ensure rural communities remained central to our country's economic growth.

I led a discussion with then-Minister of National Revenue, Marie-Claude Bibeau, at the Little Red Wagon Winery in Shawville, in collaboration with the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce and the Union des producteurs agricoles.

Together with local entrepreneurs and farmers, we addressed fair pricing, incentives for buying local, support for Canadian beef producers, and strategies to sustain the next generation of farmers.



Over the three years since my election, I visited farms across Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi and met with more than **100 farmers and producers**.

From dairy and greenhouse operations to multi-generational family farms and beef producers such as Glad Crest Farms, Ferme Stépido, Les Serres Paul Amyotte, and Ferme Danis, I heard directly about rising input costs, labour shortages, succession planning, and climate pressures. These conversations sharpened my understanding of what farmers need not just to endure, but to grow and innovate.



## 2025

I was appointed **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food**, the Hon. Heath MacDonald. It is a responsibility I accepted with deep respect for the work our farmers and food producers do every day.

2025 brought significant pressures for producers, including rising input costs, extreme weather, and global trade uncertainty. As Parliamentary Secretary, I worked to ensure farmers and agri-food businesses had strong representation and practical support both here at home and across Canada:



- I worked with the Hon. Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and provincial counterparts at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Ministers' Conference in Winnipeg to advance practical tools and supports producers need to adapt and thrive.
- I supported climate-smart farming through a \$38 million investment to the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (Agrisolutions climat) to support Quebec producers.
- To strengthen avenues of support for producers and strengthen interprovincial collaboration, I met with leading agricultural organizations, farmers, young producers, and agri-food leaders across Canada, including the UPA, the Syndicat de la relève Agricole, Egg Farmers of Canada, the Canadian Meat Council, Les Producteurs de bovins du Québec, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and more.
- I led work at the Agriculture and Agri-Food committee on important studies, including reducing red tape for farmers and implementing the Grocery Code of Conduct.

2026

I am continuing my work as **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food**, with a continued focus on making sure producers have a strong voice at the federal table and that supports remain practical, timely, and responsive to what is happening on the ground.

I also remain a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. You can follow the committee's work here: [AGRI - Home - House of Commons of Canada](#)

