



Member of Parliament  
Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi  
Sophie Chatel

## *Protecting Biodiversity in the Outaouais: Kidjīmāninān Project*

Our economy depends on the strength of our natural environment. Conservation protects our landscapes while supporting jobs, tourism, and climate resilience. The future of our agriculture, forestry, and communities relies on responsible environmental stewardship.

That's why, following my election in 2021, I launched the Green and Prosperous Outaouais initiative. The project aimed to consult the Outaouais community through roundtables and a broad public consultation process in order to propose innovative solutions and, together, build a Green and Prosperous Outaouais. Several proposals were published on the platform and received nearly 800 votes.

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## 2022

Ahead of the COP15 in Montreal in December 2022, I organized a regional COP15 in November to discuss actions needed to protect our biodiversity. Around 60 participants, including elected officials and environmental stakeholders, contributed to this reflection.

From our regional COP15, a regional biodiversity committee was established, bringing together Nagadjitòdjig Akì (Indigenous guardians) and nature conservation organizations.

Building on that momentum, I helped coordinate meetings with MRCs across the Outaouais and the City of Gatineau to strengthen regional alignment and secure formal support for the initiative.

## 2023-2024

In the months that followed, three MRCs and the Mayor of Gatineau publicly committed their participation, two MRCs formally adopted resolutions of support. Additionally, approximately ten conservation organizations, including Nature Conservancy of Canada, the National Capital Commission, CREDDO, and CPAWS-OV, contributed technical expertise and letters of support for the initiative.

This collaboration ultimately led to the Kidjīmāninān project, meaning "Our Canoe," led by the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community, to develop and implement a coordinated regional action plan to protect biodiversity-rich areas and advance conservation targets in the Outaouais by 2030.

I advanced this project at the federal level, meeting with then-Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Marc Miller and Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault to build support and ensure alignment with Canada's biodiversity commitments.



## 2024

In October 2024, the Kidjīmāninān project secured critical federal support through a \$2 million grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada. This funding enabled the launch of the project's first phases and the implementation of concrete conservation measures to protect key biodiversity hotspots in the Outaouais.

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. Together, we secured meaningful federal investment and positioned the Outaouais as a regional leader in advancing Canada's biodiversity commitments.

## 2025-2026

In October 2025, I attended CREDDO's Annual Biodiversity Gathering at UQO, an event that creates space for cooperation across communities by bringing together experts, Indigenous representatives, environmental groups, and residents who share a responsibility to protect the living systems that sustain us.

During the gathering, we had the opportunity to watch Mike McKay's documentary on the Kidjīmāninān project, a compelling reminder of the beauty and vulnerability of our land. I remain very proud of the success of our regional project and wish continued success to the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community as the project moves forward.

