



Member of Parliament
Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi
Sophie Chatel

Building More Homes and Stronger Communities

I believe everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home and a community with the infrastructure it needs to thrive. A home is more than a roof overhead. It is the foundation for dignity, stability, and security.

Canada is facing a housing crisis, and too many families, seniors, and young people are struggling to find an affordable place to call home. In Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi, I have also heard clearly from municipalities that housing growth cannot happen without the infrastructure to support it. Communities need modern water systems, safer roads, and reliable public infrastructure to make new housing possible and to support sustainable local growth.

That is why, following my election in 2021, I committed to supporting investments in housing and infrastructure that help families put down roots, strengthen communities, and ensure that no one is left behind.



How I have worked to support housing and infrastructure

From 2022 to 2024, I served as Chair of the Rural Caucus, where I worked to advance measures that responded to the unique housing and infrastructure challenges facing rural communities.

As Chair, I conducted a housing survey across Canada with elected officials, housing and development stakeholders, and housing organizations to identify the specific barriers facing rural communities and the targeted measures needed to help them build more housing.

Locally, I met with mayors, wardens, housing advocates, chiefs, council members, landowners, and other community leaders to better understand the housing and infrastructure needs of each community and to hear their innovative ideas for supporting long-term prosperity in their region.

While I no longer serve as Chair of the Rural Caucus, I continue to support:

- Faster construction of affordable housing, including through the Rapid Housing Initiative and the Housing Accelerator Fund.
- A stronger federal role in homebuilding, including through the new Build Canada Homes investment agency.
- Infrastructure investments that help communities grow, including the new Build Communities Strong Fund.
- Better support for first-time home buyers, including the First-Time Home Buyers' GST/HST rebate.



Early in 2026, I also made it a priority to **meet with the wardens and mayors of the MRCs of Pontiac, Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, and des Collines-de-l'Outaouais** to hear directly about the pressures facing their communities. Housing needs and aging infrastructure came up again and again, from roads and bridges to water systems and community facilities.

Together, we discussed how major new federal tools can help respond. One of the most important is **Build Canada Homes**, a new federal agency that marks a major shift in the federal government's approach to housing by taking a more direct role in building affordable homes faster.

We also discussed the **Build Communities Strong Fund**, a major new investment that will help municipalities build the infrastructure needed to support housing and community growth.



Local Results in Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi

Across Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi, I have seen how federal initiatives have helped move important local projects forward, including:

- More than **\$5 million** through the Rapid Housing Initiative for the Habitants at the Heart of the Valley project in Gracefield, creating **26 apartments**.
- **\$900 million** in federal funding to Quebec through the Housing Accelerator Fund, supporting nearly **300 new housing units** in the Outaouais, including \$6.4 million for student housing at the Université du Québec en Outaouais.
- **\$35 million** for the City of Gatineau for road work on Pink Road and La Vérendrye Boulevard.
- **\$5.9 million for Gatineau** through the Canada–Quebec agreement on the Rapid Housing Initiative.
- **\$411,000** through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund for Place St-Raphaël in Messines.
- **\$350,000** for active transportation projects in the Outaouais region.



Looking ahead

There is still more work to do. I will continue working with municipalities, community partners, and residents across Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi to support housing and infrastructure projects that help our communities grow, welcome new families, and remain strong for the future

