

BILAN
ANNUEL / **ANNUAL**
REVIEW

20
23

SOPHIE CHATEL
DÉPUTÉE DE PONTIAC
PONTIAC MP



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

A WORD FROM YOUR MP

Thank you for entrusting me with the honour of representing your voices in Parliament. This year, I have addressed crucial issues such as:

- **COST OF LIVING:** The increase in grocery prices and rents has marked this year's political agenda. I have applied my expertise in taxation to work on solutions such as the GST exemption for new rental housing.

- **INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS** in Ukraine, Haiti, and the Middle East, have direct repercussions on our Pontiac communities. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am determined to work for lasting peace.

- **THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE** is crucial, aiming to limit temperature rise to below 1.5°C. In this mission, my active role on the environmental committee and my commitments with all community leaders, including those from the agricultural and forestry sectors, are key for a more inclusive and effective approach.

- **BIODIVERSITY** is our greatest ally in the fight against the catastrophic outcomes of climate change. Therefore, I am actively engaged in two major projects in Outaouais: protecting Gatineau Park and a regional initiative led by the Kitigan Zibi indigenous community to protect biodiversity in the Outaouais.

- **PROMOTING A GREEN ECONOMY,** focused on creating quality jobs and affordable housing for all.

- **RURAL ISSUES (JOURNALISM AND HOUSING):** As the Chair of the Rural Caucus, I have advanced essential matters such as funding for municipal infrastructure and support for our local media, areas that are continually evolving.

- **SUPPORT TO SMEs:** I am committed to supporting your innovative projects requiring coordination between different levels of government. We have funded over 100 of your projects this year.

- **EVENTS:** Being close to you across our vast territory, I value our exchanges during your wonderful and various events. This year, I took part in over 160 of your wonderful activities in the riding.

- **THE MOST VULNERABLE:** I also strive to assist those in vulnerable situations to ensure their access to necessary aid. We worked on over 500 citizen files.

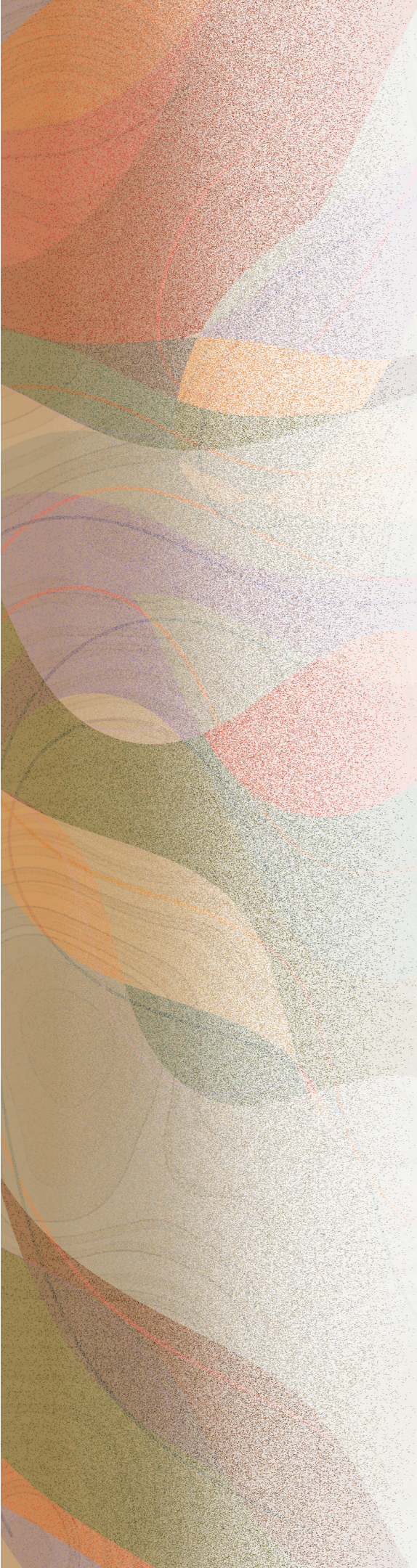
Thank you for your ongoing trust and the honour you give me in serving you. I hope this annual report faithfully reflects my commitment to your expectations and aspirations.



Each member of our community is essential and unique, and my team, which I deeply thank, plays a crucial role in our ability to meet your varied needs with unwavering support.

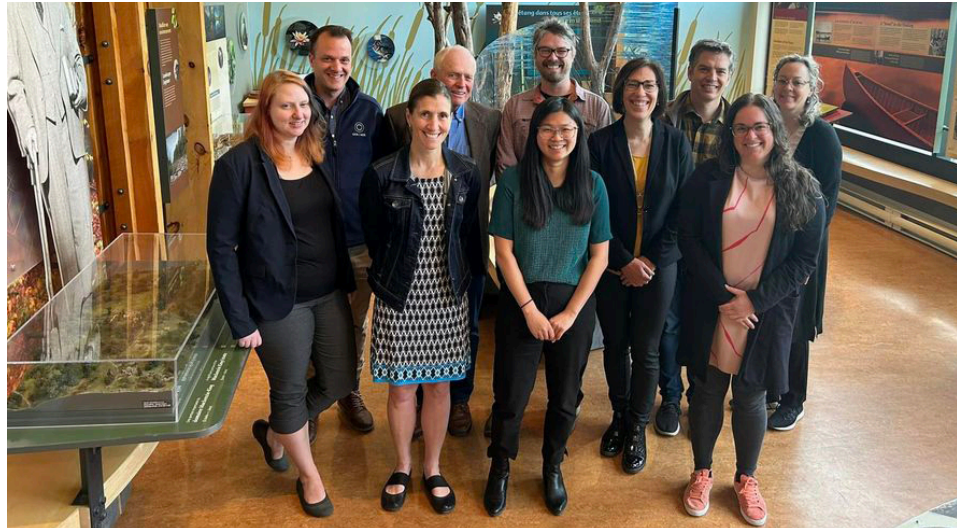


Députée de Pontiac
Member of Parliament for Pontiac



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECT

Following our regional COP15 in the Outaouais region, a unique project to conserve the biodiversity of our aki (Earth), spearheaded by the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community, was born. Thanks to the incredible support of regional elected officials, conservation groups, public organizations, businesses, and the community, we will be working together, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, to develop a regional action plan to achieve our COP15 objectives and our goals of reconciliation with the Anishinabeg Indigenous communities. "It is our relationship with the land that will unite us and enable us to protect the richness of our shared territory for future generations."



GATINEAU PARK

Since my election as Member of Parliament for Pontiac, I have worked tirelessly to strengthen the protection of Gatineau Park. With the support and collaboration of my colleagues in Parliament, as well as local organizations such as Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Ottawa Valley Chapter (CPAWS-OV), we are unanimous: quality protection of our green spaces, wetlands, and areas of high biodiversity value in the region is essential if we are to achieve our goal of protecting 30% of our territory by 2030. Now, more than ever, is the time to act to protect Gatineau Park in perpetuity within a legislative framework. Let's make Gatineau Park a real Park!



CPAWS-OV petitions for
better protection of
Gatineau Park with over
2,000 signatures.



PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

I am happy to be your voice on Parliament Hill. As a member of the Finance Committee, I contributed to the study of pre-budget consultations and the 2023 budget. I also initiated a motion to study green finance. Currently, on the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee, we are analyzing the Russia-Ukraine border and Canadian diplomacy, while on the Environment Committee, we are studying the issue of fresh water.

Meanwhile, as Chair of the Rural Caucus, I advocate for the needs of rural communities, defending health care, community radio and local newspapers, as well as rural housing needs. As Chair of the Outaouais Caucus and Co-Chair of the National Capital Region (NCR) Caucus, I work with my colleagues to protect Gatineau Park and interprovincial transportation in the National Capital Region.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CITIZEN SERVICES

When I am not in Parliament, I take the opportunity to spend time with you, in our beautiful riding. Taking the time to listen and discuss with you is very important to me. These meetings enable me to serve you better every day and support you in your projects.

Here are a few highlights by the numbers:

- In addition to my work in Parliament, I have participated in a little over 160 events and activities in the riding.
- I sent out 6 program bulletins to ensure community leaders are aware of new programs and completed around 50 program research requests for various initiatives and amazing projects in the riding.
- I responded personally and substantially to over 400 of your correspondences.
- My team and I have worked on over 500 citizen files: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; Canada Revenue Agency; Service Canada, Phoenix, and others.
- Our government has funded more than 100 amazing projects (not counting Canada Summer Jobs program), supporting innovation and economic growth in our riding.



MEETING OF WARDENS AND MAYORS

I always enjoy starting the new year by meeting with elected municipal officials to understand their priorities, so that we can align on common goals. I'm proud to be surrounded by dedicated elected officials who, like me, have the well-being of each and every one of you at heart. Every opportunity I have to collaborate with my municipal colleagues is precious, because by hearing your concerns through them, I can carry our region's voice even stronger to government. Our community is dynamic and united, and together, I'm convinced that we'll be able to meet the challenges that lie ahead and successfully carry out the common projects that drive us.



MINISTERS' VISIT

The Honourable RANDY BOISSONNAULT, in the role of Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance

On April 13th, I organized a breakfast at Café Cognac in Gatineau with the Honourable Minister Randy Boissonnault. For the occasion, I brought together entrepreneurs from the region to discuss with the Minister our regional priorities for economic growth.



The Honourable MARIE-CLAUDE BIBEAU, in the role of Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

On April 14, we were delighted to welcome the Honourable Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau to the Pontiac riding. In the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais region, we announced an investment of \$73,159 for Le Grenier des Collines, a vital organization located in Val-des-Monts that provides food aid services.



We then continued our visit to the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau for a round table with committed stakeholders where we discussed food security, the agricultural and tourism sectors, and economic development.



The Honourable PABLO RODRIGUEZ, Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant

On December 11, along with the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, I took part in the announcement of funding for the widening of Pink Road and La Vérendrye Boulevard West. This joint federal-provincial investment of \$70.4 million over 5 years will enable Gatineau to make crucial improvements to our road network.



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