



SOPHIE CHATEL

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PONTIAC

DECEMBER 2022

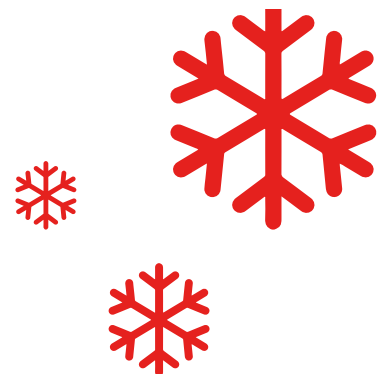


A WORD FROM YOUR MP

I've been blessed. When I think back upon difficult patches in my life, family and friends were always there. I would not be who I am today, or where I am, without their loving support. Not everyone, though, is fortunate enough to have loved ones they can count on. Life can be hard. Sometimes misfortune knocks us down. And one of the key roles of the Federal government is to provide basic support: public health care and child care funding, unemployment insurance and old age pensions. But our safety net isn't perfect. That is why community organizations, churches, and neighbors are so important; they catch people that fall through the cracks.

Throughout the riding I have met with an army of quiet heroes: the teachers in Gatineau who never gave up on their students; volunteers in Otter Lake who do odd jobs so the elderly can age in their community; the food bank volunteers from the *Grenier des Collines* and *l'Entraide de la Vallée* that offer a helping hand when we need it most; and, of course, the health-care workers that work long hours. For most Canadian families, paying the bills starts with having a good job. That is why this government is investing in the skills that Canadian workers need to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow.

We are also working to break down the barriers that ensure that everyone can reach their full potential. To me "family" means that "nobody's forgotten." As we gather over the holidays, let's remember that good government means extending our circle of care to embrace our entire community. When you are able to work together, bridge your differences and leave no one behind; that's family.



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REGIONAL COP15: PRESERVING OUR NATURE

Taking inspiration from the United Nations COP 15 program, on November 22, the CREDDO and I brought together biodiversity experts to focus on local biodiversity. Representatives from the National Capital Commission, ACRE, biodiversity experts from Kitigan Zibi, other experts, and elected officials from all levels of government came together to set our local priorities for protecting endangered species, preserving our natural spaces for future generations and protecting vital ecological corridors. With the imminent unveiling of Canada's national adaptation strategy, it was important to unite local stakeholders around a strategic framework that promises to make the Outaouais a model for biodiversity protection. The Parc de la Gatineau, our rivers, forests and lakes need to be protected from the climate crisis and development so that future generations can profit from fresh water, clean air and spectacular recreational opportunities. The Green and Prosperous Outaouais process will further test out actions proposed during the regional COP15 with national and international experts. Soon citizens at large will also be able to weigh in on these proposals using our public consultation platform Cocoriko!



CREDDO, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Steven MacKinnon, Greg Fergus, André Fortin, Jane Toller, Chantal Lamarche, France Bélisle, Pierre Guénard, Nicolas Malette, Jocelyne Lyrette, Environnement et Changement climatique Canada, ACRE (Action Chelsea for the Respect of the Environment), CPAWS - Ottawa Valley, Fondation forêt Boucher, Capital Nature, Commission de la capitale nationale, Conservation de la nature Canada, IUCN, Coopérative de solidarité des Forêts et des Gens.



"TAKE A PICTURE"

SUPPORTING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES, FARMS AND FORESTRY

As Chair of the Rural Caucus, my most important role is to ensure that our government's policies reflect the needs and realities of remote communities. In particular, we've called upon our government to focus upon food security, sustainable agriculture and innovation, while helping small and medium businesses to transition towards a green and digital economy. Additionally, we advocated for housing programs that better account for the realities of rural communities and supporting local radios and newspapers vital for rural life.



Once forestry anchored Pontiac's economy. Today, the industry is making critical investments to ensure its future prosperity. I want to particularly salute Marco Rouillard and Jean-Philippe Éthier of Produits forestiers Résolu, and Guilhem Coulombe of Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, for their investments and strategic vision that ensure that our forests will remain at the heart of our regional economy for decades to come. Citizens too can chime in on our proposals using our digital platform outaouaisvert.cocoriko.org.

The Pontiac riding is blessed with fertile land and great farmers. Last September, I joined the Union des producteurs agricoles' (UPA) open house. With UPA representative Claude Vallière and Stéphane Alary as my guides, we visited Scott Judd's Glad Crest Farms in Shawville, the Paul Amyote Greenhouses in Mansfield-et-Pontefract and Edward O'Brien and Sons' Farm in Isle-aux-Allumettes.



The O'Brien family of Isle-aux-Allumettes has been farming for generations. They recently purchased a zero-emission tractor, which literally turns CO2 into fertilizer.

FIGHTING INFLATION

As Canadians gather over the holiday to celebrate with loved ones, rising prices threaten to take a bite out of their festivities. Balancing fiscal prudence and compassion, our government has introduced various measures:

- Doubling the GST tax credit
- Financing dental care for children under the age of 12
- Sending \$500 to tenants struggling to pay their rent
- Enhancing the Canada Workers Benefit
- Financing 37,000 spaces in the Quebec child care system
- Increasing Old Age Security payment for Canadians over 75
- Indexing the Canada Child Benefit, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the federal minimum wage to inflation