



MNA Sylvain Roy supports the return of the train

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – The Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy supports the return of a passenger train in the Gaspé Peninsula. He calls “proximity transportation” the main issue of 2016 in the region.

“I would like to take the train to go back and forth to Quebec City,” said Mr. Roy, after being asked if he had signed the letter put out by the Gaspésians for the return of the train coalition and destined to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He travels between his riding and the capital almost every week.

“We will sign the letter and we will take a strong stand soon,” added Mr. Roy, who is not too keen on the regional priority expressed at the beginning of January by Diane Lebouthillier, the Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands riding and federal minister of National revenue. She said that determining a regional airport

is her priority for 2016.

“My priority is proximity transportation, mainly the train and the bus (...) As time passes, transportation services are deteriorating. It shouldn’t be the case,” stated Sylvain Roy, adding that air transportation remains an important mode but for a limited number of users.

Diane Lebouthillier wants to launch a study that would determine the region’s optimal airport. She has already expressed her preference for Grand River, an airport near her home and without a transporter.

Upgrading work worth at least \$20 million must be carried out to repair the Grand River airstrip, lengthen it to 6,000 feet and add a more suitable building. Six thousand feet is the length of Bonaventure’s airstrip.

In the development plan prepared under the Parti Québécois government in 2013, Grand River was identified as the optimal airport. Sylvain Roy concedes that it was the first choice, following



Photo: G. Gagné

Sylvain Roy says that the return of the passenger train and improvements in the bus service are the priorities for 2016.

rounds of public consultations, but it was not based on thorough studies.

“There are already active airports in the region. Bonaventure could be specialized in (tourist) chartered flights. There are problems in Gaspé with weather conditions. I am not a specialist. We must maximize the options we have and at the present time, the priority is for the train and the bus,” he stated.