

Interpellation period at National Assembly yields no satisfaction

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The two Members of the National Assembly representing the Gaspé Peninsula, Sylvain Roy for Bonaventure and Gaétan Lelièvre, for Gaspé, were allowed to hold a two hour question period on April 7 regarding different development stakes for the region. Minister Sébastien Proulx was facing them at the National Assembly. The railway being one of the main themes covered during that period and Mr. Proulx again stuck to the answers he has been using since November, to the effect that the file is under analysis.

New Richmond resident Barry Brake, an active member of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the train, attended the question period like a number of people and was far from impressed by what he witnessed.

“The government is stalling for some reason on the railway file. When the government bought the line in 2015, the minister of Transport at the time (Robert Poëti) said that if



Photo: Bernard Babin

Bernard Babin, at the microphone, and Barry Brake, who wears a pale suit, were not impressed by the answers of minister Sébastien Proulx.

there were shippers down below Caplan, they would repair the line and the bridges. The shippers are there. I am afraid, like the president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Mr. (Éric) Dubé, that if they don't make an announcement by

June, the construction season will be lost,” comments Mr. Brake.

He is lost for words for a while when asked to describe the answers given by Minister

Proulx, who is responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula.

“He constantly comes back to the consensus of the region, and that it has supposedly changed. It changed, but much earlier, months and months ago because there are shippers,” adds Mr. Brake.

Another active member of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the train, New Carlisle native Bernard Babin, also attended the question period and described Mr. Proulx's performance as “a big show of figure skating”.

The Opposition leader at the National Assembly, Parti Québécois' Jean-François Lisée, had committed to what is technically called an “interpellation period” about the Gaspé Peninsula when he last visited the area over the course of the winter. The reason behind that procedure was “the negligence shown towards the Gaspé Peninsula by the Liberal government.”