

## Is climate change the “ballot question” in the upcoming election?

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: — The spokesperson of Québec solidaire, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, says that climate change will be the “ballot question”, in the October 1 election. He made that statement during a September 11 stop in Carleton.

In the same breath, he criticized the leader of the Liberal Party, Premier Philippe Couillard, who claims that immigration must be considered the “ballot question” regarding the election.

“It is through dividing Quebecers on that topic that the Liberals stayed in power for 15 years. For Québec solidaire, it is clear: the ballot question must be linked to climate change. Immigration is not the thing that should scare people. The thing that should scare us is the pollution that is burning the planet,” indicated Mr. Nadeau-Dubois.

In order to reach the province’s targets in greenhouse gas reduction and protecting drinkable water, “Québec solidaire will adopt a decree blocking all the hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects currently taking place in Quebec... like Galt, Bourque and Haldimand,” he emphasized, adding that those measures are considered in the party’s eco-



Photo: G. Gagné

Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois and Catherine Cyr-Wright held their press conference in a Carleton venue, the Vaste et vague centre for artists. They discussed the pollution caused by oil and gas exploration near Gaspé.

nomic transition plan.

A law would follow the decree in order to block future oil and gas exploration attempts.

“How much will it cost us? Nothing, because the (exploration) firms will not be compensated,” emphasized Mr. Nadeau-Dubois. He then denounced the pro-oil positions of the Liberal Party and Coalition avenir Québec, as well as the Parti Québécois, “responsible for the Anticosti mess.” He was referring to the \$100 million of public funds spent on the island and as compensation to the exploration firms. The Anticosti initiative did not yield one barrel of oil.

Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois finds it completely abnormal that the “village of Ristigouche South East had to be front and centre of a five years fight simply because the (municipal council) wanted to protect its drinkable water” against oil exploration firm Gastem.

The Québec solidaire spokesperson indicated that the party’s economic transition plan would lead to the creation of 200,000 “durable and well-paid jobs.”

The party candidate in Bonaventure, Catherine Cyr-Wright, added to her leader’s

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statements through specifying that the emphasis on renewable energies would benefit wind energy, which already sustains 1,200 jobs in the Gaspé Peninsula.

“We want to make sure that Hydro-Québec will play a more positive role in wind energy,” she affirmed.

Meanwhile, Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois also expressed his support of the repairs of the railway as far as Gaspé, a very important re-

gional stake. He said that the upgrading of the railway will facilitate the hauling of cement out of the Port Daniel plant and windmill blades out of the LM Wind Power facility in Gaspé. They currently have to make their way to the functional part of the railroad by truck, a costly alternative.

As for passenger traffic, he puts his priority on the bus service. When asked if that solution was excluding a return of the passenger train, he replied that “nothing is excluded.”