



RAILWAY:

Reactions to recent announcement

● Gilles Gagné

Gaétan Lelièvre, independent Member of National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé: “I am worried. I can’t understand the absence of deadlines and the slowness in the realization of (line) repairs. I salute the courage of Mr. Moreau to come and announce something bearing so little development. It is extremely disappointing to see that such an important file is an orphan, politically. It shows this government’s lack of political will about the railway stake in the Gaspé Peninsula. It is deplorable that Transport Minister André Fortin never came to the Gaspé

for the most important file regarding the south side of the region. I am also worried about the silence over the return of the train to Gaspé. Again, it is odd to see this government announcing \$6.3 billion for the REM train network in Montreal, a project that will be delivered in three years, and being unable to set dates on the \$100 million repairs of a line built more than 100 years ago.”

Éric Dubé, president of the Gaspé Railway Society: “The sum of \$12.5 million will fill a need. We have reached a satisfactory agreement with the Department of Transport for the use of that money over five years. We are also glad that the

cabinet accepted to put the Caplan-Port Daniel line in a business status. As for the Port Daniel to Gaspé stretch, some mandates have been given (to consulting firms). There are ten structures that have to be analyzed, mainly three rock slides or faults. They are major stakes and they have to be assessed before that part of the line is put in a business case mode.”

Maryse Tremblay, spokesperson for McInnis Cement: “By and large, it is good news. There is a will to move forward. The task reverting to us is to work with the follow-up committee and make sure that we get a deadline for service resumption to Port Daniel.”