



Photo: G. Gagné

Significant VIA Rail contract awarded to Rail GD

— Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Public transporter VIA Rail recently awarded an important contract to New Richmond's Rail GD for the repairs that must be undertaken on six passenger cars that were damaged during the Christmas break.

The sleeper cars were part of the Canadian train, which links Toronto and Vancouver. A severe cold snap froze the water pipes of those six cars. The pipes split open during and caused damage to some of the cars' other components. "The work will be carried out until April 2018 and includes repairs

on the split pipes and the replacement of the different components damaged by the cold," explains Mylène Bélanger, spokesperson for VIA Rail.

The damage occurred while the Canadian was travelling in Manitoba. The Canadian links Toronto to Vancouver twice a week between October and April, and three times a week from April to October. Rail GD is working on cars 8305, also called Bayfield Manor, 8307 (Blair Manor), 8013 (Cabot Manor), 8317 (Cornwall Manor), 8330 (Hunter Manor) and 8332 (Laird Manor). The president of Rail

GD Gilles Babin cannot comment on the contract because he signed a confidentiality clause with VIA Rail. He can say that his staff went from 15 employees to a number varying between 30 and 40 for the duration of this contract.

The six stainless steel sleepers were built by Budd Cars in 1954 and 1955 for Canadian Pacific. They were part of a 42 car order. They were acquired by VIA Rail when the public transporter was founded in 1977 and rebuilt by AMF in Montreal between 1990 and 1993. Forty of the original fleet of those sleeper cars remain in service to this day.