



Premier Legault talks directly to Daniel Côté

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GASPÉ – Premier François Legault talked directly to the mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté on May 9, as both men were attending the annual convention of *Union des municipalités du Québec* in Quebec City. Both men were sitting at the same table, hours after the premier's office had contacted Sylvain Roy, Member of the National Assembly, to tell him that Mr. Legault is ready to meet Gaspé Peninsula stakeholders wanting to accelerate the line repairs.

François Legault acknowledges that the 2026 deadline is too far in the future.

“He understands people's dissatisfaction regarding the railway. His government (and minister (of Transport, François) Bonnardel are working at cutting delays. Will it be through performance enhanced specifications or another way. It is not specified but there is a real will to change the delays,” explains Mr. Côté.

It remains to be seen, adds

the Gaspé mayor, if the administrative machine of the government will find solutions to reduce delays.

According to Mr. Côté, the media coverage and the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence municipal resolutions to accelerate the line refurbishment are paying off.

“There are many municipal council resolutions circulating currently. The (government) offices are receiving some every day. Despite that political commitment we received, as long as we won't have a (new) delay confirmation, we will keep putting pressure,” he adds.

Mr. Côté stays convinced that 2022 is always realistic for the return of train services to Gaspé. LM Wind Power, the biggest customer of the Gaspésie Railway Society, will be looking for new contracts and the railway will be a key in that regard. LM Wind Power has to send its blades by truck to New Richmond because the line is closed east of Caplan.