



## The Amiral train is deteriorating

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ** - The Gaspésie Railway Society will look into the fate of the Amiral tourist train cars at its next board of directors meeting.

The train has not been used since 2015 following the railway ban by Quebec. Parked at the Gaspé station, the cars are suffering the effects of weather and vandalism. One just needs to take a glance at the first car to see that the roof shows deterioration, not to mention the graffiti.

While Quebec has unveiled plans to renovate the railway to Gaspé by 2026, the Gaspésie Railway Society, president, Eric Dubé, wants to protect them by returning them to New Richmond. "Almost \$1 million has been invested in renovations. I would not want to have to reinvest another \$1 million the day we need it again," he says.

In 2017, the transfer of the locomotive caused sparks in Gaspé. The mayor, Daniel Côté, finally joined the decision as it was used to pull the



Photo: N. Sergerie

*The Amiral tourist train parked in Gaspé is showing the effects of weather and vandalism.*

wind turbine blades from New Richmond to the connection with CN in Matapédia. The mayor is agreeing with the decision to move them, as long as the society keeps them. "If it's to store them, update them, that's fine. To sell them, I re-

ally would not agree. We will not fight to keep them in our yard," says Mr. Côté. The immobilized cars are also causing misunderstandings among cruise passengers, especially those wishing to use the immobilized infrastructure.