

Tie-changing crew now working in Caplan

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CAPLAN – Transport Quebec, the owner of the Matapedia to Gaspé railroad since 2015, has been criticized heavily over the last years for its slowness in undertaking the refurbishment or replacement of the bridges along the line. There is one department that is evolving at a faster pace, the tie-changing job. That contract is carried out by PNR Railworks, a Canadian company based in Delson, Quebec and Guelph, Ontario. Up to 50,000 ties were replaced this year, including 40,000 between mileage points 58 and 80 of the Cascapedia subdivision, and mileage point zero and 20 of the Chandler subdivision. Another set of 10,000 ties will be changed between mileage points 80 and 90 of the Cascapedia subdivision which was supposed to be done in last year's contract. Last year, that task was also conducted at a good pace, except that the contractor ran out of ties before the end of the season. It was a province-wide shortage. Mileage point 58 is located in Saint Jules, while mile 80 is situated at the limit of Caplan and Saint-Siméon. Mile 90 is located in Bonaventure while mile 0 of the Chandler subdivision is situated in New Carlisle, which is also the end of the Cascapedia subdivision. Mileage point 20 is located in Port-Daniel. In addition to changing ties, the contractor must also change 150,000 rail anchors this year between Matapedia and New Carlisle. As of September 6, the tie-changing crew was working at mileage point 77 in Caplan. Up to 12,000 tonnes of ballast are also supposed to be spread between Nouvelle and New Richmond.