

The Gaspé Spec

ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

VOLUME 46 / NO 12, MARCH 25, 2020

Contract 400119680
\$1.50 (Tax included)

How are Gaspesian businesses reacting to the coronavirus? *This is how the Gaspésie Railway Society is coping*

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NEW RICHMOND — The coronavirus is forcing businesses to change the way they operate and this holds true for the companies based on the Gaspé Peninsula. The example of the Gaspésie Railway Society illustrates the measures recommended by the Public Health Board of the region.

"The management staff is working from home, except for the accounting clerk, who is alone at the office. We have reduced the number of employees per unit of equipment. For example, we have only one employee on our snowplow units instead of two. We have also adopted a contingency plan for an eventual occurrence of minimal

operations, if it is required," explains the Gaspésie Railway Society director general, Luc Lévesque.

The employees who were following courses have adopted distance training methods, with computers and software enabling them to do so. The employees who were supposed to leave for vacation had to cancel them, "including mine," points out Mr. Lévesque.

A list of qualified employees able to fill in for colleagues who could become sick was also prepared.

"So far, only one employee has pulled out of work for preventive reasons but it is because of influenza," adds Mr. Lévesque.

The Gaspésie Railway Society has 34 regular employ-



The Gaspésie Railway Society has implemented a set of measures to insure the health of its staff.

ees on its payroll. Its activities were slowed down and then paralyzed during the 25-day

Listuguj blockade, between February 10 and March 5.

The coronavirus crisis has

not hampered the traffic of the Gaspésie Railway Society so far, mentions Luc Lévesque.