

## 2020: Rail investment catches the attention of Marie-Eve Proulx

*Nelson Sergerie*

GASPÉ - The additional amounts announced in February 2020 for rail repairs is the major item retained by the minister responsible for the Gaspé in her yearly report. "It's a dream I have had for a long time; \$307 million for the rehabilitation of the railroad is a major step," says Marie-Eve Proulx with pride.

The minister also highlights \$4.9 million in assistance to municipalities and \$850,000 for tourism in times of the pandemic.

Other hot items are the consultation on the priority projects and the reform of Investissement Quebec with 12 jobs created in the region, even if this component was the subject of a clash with the elected officials of the region due to the transfer to Rimouski. from the regional office of the Ministry of Economy and Innovation.

The social economic action plan is also part of the report. Before the holidays began, the regional pole criticized the small amount that was allocated. The minister wants to continue discussions. "We are going to rework and reposition things with them to provide a good orientation. We will continue to support social economy enterprises," explains Ms. Proulx.

Promoting the automation of Gaspesian businesses is one of her important objectives in 2021. Noting that regional businesses are lagging far behind in this regard, Marie-Ève Proulx has this element in standby as a basis for economic recovery after the pandemic. "I see a major breakthrough in local buying. Encouraging local buying. Digitization and automation too. The Gaspé is the region where businesses are the least automated. We should see the Gaspé become more automated. We will work hard on this. "