



Train service becomes an electoral issue

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NEW RICHMOND - The Coalition of Gaspésians for the future of trains calls for the intervention of Diane Lebouthillier and the Minister of Transport of Canada to ensure the return of VIA Rail to the Gaspé.

In a letter addressed to the outgoing Liberal Deputy Minister on August 20, the Coalition calls for quick intervention with the federal Minister of Transport, Omar Alghabra, with the goal of finding short-term solutions for the resumption of passenger train service in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The organization notes that Quebec has invested \$80

million so far on the Gaspé railroad and the railway line is safe between Matapédia and New Richmond, which would allow the train to return to this segment. In addition, the coalition is calling for a gradual return to the east as the work progresses.

VIA Rail has always indicated that it will come to Gaspé once the complete and safe rehabilitation of the track has been completed. Quebec is moving forward to 2025 for the end of the work.

The Coalition is receiving support on the issue from the Bloc Québécois. While at a joint outing, candidates Kristina Michaud and Guy Bernatchez both criticized outgoing Liberal member Diane Lebouthillier for her

lack of boldness in this matter.

The lighthouse of Cap-des-Rosiers

The Conservative candidate for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands made sure to include lighthouses in his party's platform.

Patrimoine Gaspésie is asking the candidates to deliver on the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse. Without committing specifically, Jean-Pierre Pigeon notes that his party is committed to providing the tools to protect built heritage.

"I have checked with the party and they confirmed that lighthouses will be a very important part of the platform. If I am elected, I will work very,

very hard to obtain repairs to the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse," says the curator.

Christian Rioux wants to initiate discussion.

The People's Party of Canada candidate in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine isn't hesitating to go against the grain for the September 20 election.

From the outset, Christian Rioux has called the management of Justin Trudeau's debt a disaster, saying that other countries have taken less debt in the management of the pandemic.

Maxime Bernier's candidate wants to remove inter-provincial barriers and exploit natural resources, which are being blocked for ideological reasons.

"The regions are getting poorer. We have big problems. Governments don't necessarily do the right thing. Maxime Bernier spoke openly in favour of the development of natural resources," explains Mr. Rioux.

The party wants to balance the budget "Once that's done, lower taxes, etc., that doesn't mean that we're going to cut infrastructure programs. But there are a lot of programs that could be cut," says the candidate, giving as an example the generous subsidies to multinationals like Bombardier.

The candidate is, however, realistic about his chances "My goal is more to promote and stir up ideas, especially when the other parties are all similar," says Mr. Rioux.