



National Assembly: the time has come to take stock

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GASPÉ - Unsurprisingly, the two representatives of the Gaspé Peninsula at the National Assembly of Quebec feel that they have well defended the interests of their constituents during the fall session of the Parliament of Quebec.

The major issue that monopolized the independent Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, over the past year and which will remain in the news at the spring session is that of health, while the Auditor General will table her report on the governance of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

"It will be important because in my opinion, it is representative of what is happening throughout the health system in Quebec. This is a ship that is sinking and the VG's (Auditor General's) investigation with the CISSS de la Gaspésie will shed light on the problems that exist elsewhere," says Sylvain Roy.

Mr. Roy will also take an



Photo: N. Sergerie

Méganne Perry Mélançon presented her report on December 13 at her office in Gaspé.

interest in the fate of forestry workers who have not had their fair share in the past year when the price of wood has skyrocketed.

Sylvain Roy is proud to have seen his work recognized by his colleagues in the La Presse daily list published on December 11, when he placed third for the best representative of his riding.

"It shows that we did our job and intervened in a considerable number of issues. Sometimes it has paid off, but other times we must persevere," says Mr. Roy.

Beyond the files, Mr. Roy emphasizes that 80% of his job is to help people in particular situations.

Housing and hydrocarbons are top on the list for the

Member for Gaspé, Méganne Perry Mélançon.

The housing crisis and the Galt project in the context of the end of exploration announced by Quebec for hydrocarbons marked the session record of the Member for Gaspé.

Even if steps have been taken in recent months, Parti Québécois Member of the National Assembly, Méganne Perry Mélançon, notes that the concerns will remain the same when the holiday break is over.

"The childcare problems that are hampering development and housing is a big issue. Until we fix it, how can we move forward as a society? How can we develop in the Gaspésie?" asks the elected official in the context of a shortage of 400 housing units in Gaspé alone.

Unsurprisingly, Ms. Perry Mélançon returned to the issue of Route 132 where a 40-metre retaining wall was washed away by seawater on December 3 in Marsoui. Ms. Perry Mélançon is still calling for a committee of elected officials and experts to investigate a repair scenario for the only road

link in this sector of the Gaspé.

Beyond the problems related to Highway 132, the Member of the National Assembly notes that the issue of transport must be analyzed in a global way, especially since the Minister of Transport François Bonnardel does not want to make a firm commitment to return rail services to Port-Daniel by the end of 2022 and that the president of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie, Éric Dubé, no longer believes in it. She fears that the 2025 deadline for Gaspé will not be met.

"This is unacceptable. You must have options. We cannot just rely on a single transport because that gives a monopoly and that gives astronomical prices," says Ms. Perry Mélançon.

Regarding hydrocarbons, she hopes that Quebec will not withdraw after announcing its intention to end the industry. The MNA mentions the bill tabled by her party in the National Assembly which provides for an ambitious green shift for Quebec in passing the fact that there must be no compensation for the oil companies.