

A \$19M agreement between Quebec and the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie to speed up work on the railway

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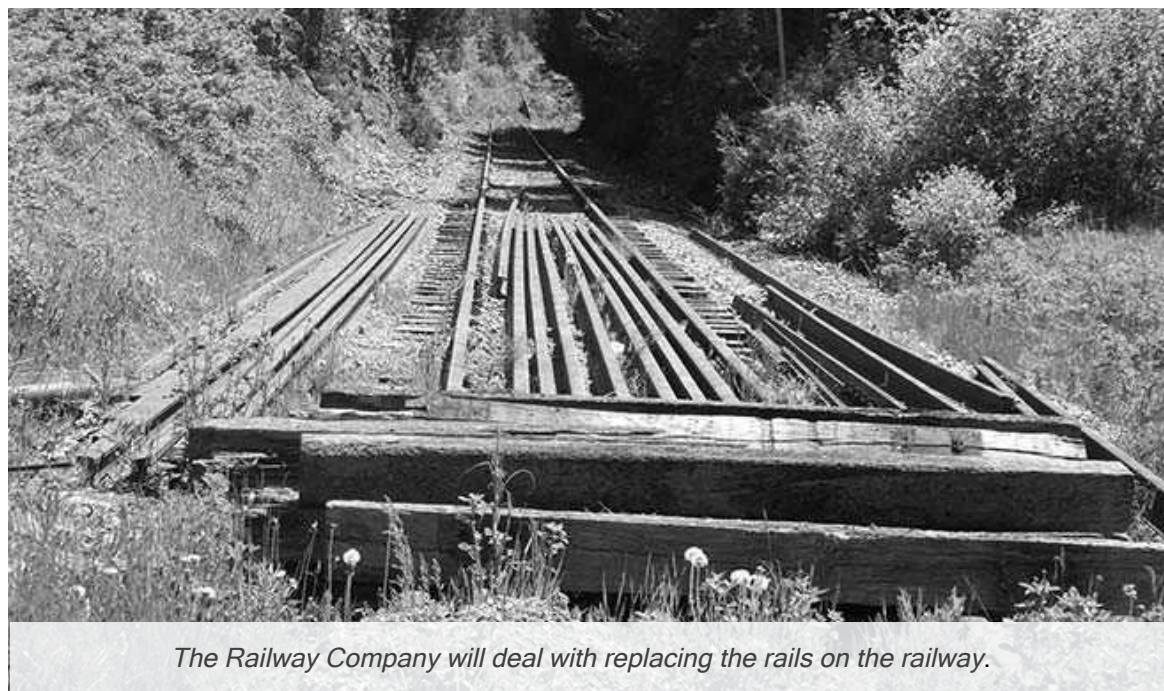
SAINTE-ANNE-DESMONTS - The Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie is partnering with the Quebec government for the repair of the Gaspé Peninsula railroad.

The Transport Ministry is paying the company \$19 million over three years to carry out work on the two sections between Caplan and Gaspé.

“This agreement will make it possible to speed up the work and, at the same time, the government is using the expertise of the Société du chemin de fer that we have developed over several years,” says the president, Éric Dubé.

Quebec will take care of the major works and the company will take care of the maintenance of the railway.

Concretely, these interven-



The Railway Company will deal with replacing the rails on the railway.

Photo: N. Sergerie

tions include, in particular, the rehabilitation and repair of level crossings as well as the replacement of rails and ballast.

“We are going to do the work that is on our scale and, at the same time, we have the

teams to do it. It will go much faster,” says Mr. Dubé.

On November 11, Quebec announced a call for interest for the construction of the Port-Daniel-Gascons-Gaspé section. The section linking Matapédia

and Caplan is currently in operation. Work is underway for the portion linking Caplan to Port-Daniel-Gascons, while the commissioning of the section is scheduled for 2024.

Work planning on the sec-

tion between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé is underway. It is only after this step that the nature of the costs and schedule of the work will be known.

In 2021 alone, the SCFG carried on its trains more than \$160 million in value of exported goods.

With an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to road transport, the choice of the rail mode has enabled shippers to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 11,250 tonnes of CO₂, i.e. the equivalent of 2,500 fewer cars on the road.

The rail operating agreement between Quebec and the company, which expires on March 31, is under negotiation.

“It is too early to say how it will end but I am convinced that we will have one to carry out all the rest of the mandate,” says the president.