

## GASPÉ PENINSULA: Hundreds of millions of dollars for the PQI

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GASPÉ - The Gaspé Peninsula is seeing some major projects remain active or be included in the 2022-2032 Quebec Infrastructure Plan (PQI).

Unsurprisingly, the repair of the railway in the region is the element that requires the most resources. Quebec plans an investment of \$43 million this year, including \$36 million on the Caplan-Port-Daniel-Gascons section. The Ruisseau-Leblanc bridge must be replaced, a file that is out for

tender until March 28 and should cost between \$5 and \$10 million.

Approximately \$8 million is planned for the first section between Matapédia and Caplan.

So far, \$82 million has been invested out of the \$151 million cited in the plan, although Quebec claims to have reserved \$235 million for the project and announced on February 3 that more than \$100 million had already been injected.

By adding the federal contribution of \$45.8 million in 2019 from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund for



Photo: N. Sergerie

The railway line in the Haldimand region.

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### PQI:

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the Port-Daniel-Gascons-Gaspé section to counter coastal erosion, the total budget "available" to date is \$280.8 million.

The Port-Daniel-Gascons-Gaspé section is at the planning stage, with no amount indicated.

### Health

In health, one element does not appear in the PQI: the future of the Maria hospital centre. The Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) has a reconstruction of the building on the drawing board.

However, a more advanced project, that of the expansion and renovation of Villa Pabos de Chandler, is included: \$500,000 has been invested to date and \$2 million is planned for this year in this \$60 million project.

Construction of the Rivière-au-Renard Seniors' Centre continues with \$16.2M committed and \$9.5M planned for this year out of a total of \$44M.

### Roads

Only one major road project is included in the plan for the Gaspé Peninsula: the Gaspé industrial road, called route éolienne in the plan, is still in the

planning stage in a file of more than \$20 million.

The move of the Ministry of Transport service centre in Gaspé from downtown to the Augustines Industrial Park is progressing with \$11.8 million invested and \$10.7 million planned for this year out of an envelope of \$22.9 million. The construction is progressing smoothly.

### Culture

In the cultural component, the Villa Frederick-James in Percé, classified as an Espace Bleu de la Gaspésie, appears in the PQI with a budget of \$20.8 million for the acquisition, the move and the redevelopment.

### Education

Lastly, an education file is included in the budget as well, the reconstruction of New Carlisle High School. Quebec claimed to invest \$32 million for the new building, but no figures appear in the PQI. The building must be ready for the beginning of the 2024 school year.

The PQI includes the government's investment intentions exceeding \$20M for the next 10 years. The plan provides for \$142.5 billion, \$80 billion of which will be invested in the next five years for all of Quebec