

Little Port Daniel River bridge repair contract awarded

● GILLES GAGNÉ

PORT DANIEL – The last bridge between Caplan and Port Daniel whose refurbishment contract was not awarded yet is now under repair. Quebec-based Hamel Construction got the contract to repair the Little Port Daniel River bridge and work started on October 10, a few days after the company's equipment arrived on site.

The work calls for the refurbishment of the bridge but also for moving the track over a considerable distance to correct a curve, as well as the realignment of the bridge to deal with that track movement.

The value of the contract amounts to \$12,790,000, which was much less than the other bidders who submitted tenders of about \$19 million for the same job. It must be delivered by September 2023.

Over the last four years, Hamel Construction and its subsidiary, CRT Construction, have four contracts that include the repairs or replacement of five bridges, including the complete replacement of the two in Cascapedia-St. Jules between the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2021. The two new bridges were functional on December 23, 2020, six months ahead of schedule.

The company also replaced the Ruisselet bridge in Caplan, again finishing close to four months ahead of the terms stipulated in the contract. The refurbishment of the Port Daniel railway structure located next to the fishing wharf was also carried out by Construction CRT, a Hamel Construction company.

Currently, four bridges are under repair or about to be. At the beginning of August, the

contract to repair the Bonaventure River bridge was awarded to Groupe SEMA Structures Ferroviaires for \$6,539,854. That contractor is based in Sainte-Flavie and operates a shop in Mont-Joli. Groupe SEMA was also chosen to refurbish the Shigawake trestle. In that case, the value of the contract reaches \$8,975,100 and work will soon start there. The delivery schedule is 21 months in both cases.

The most advanced project takes place on the Ruisseau Leblanc bridge, at the municipal limit of Caplan and Saint-Siméon. The contract for the replacement of that structure was awarded to Construction Polaris for \$7,947,000 on May 10. The old bridge was dismantled beginning on July 11. The pillars of the new bridge are now under construction.

Transports Québec has been the owner of the Gaspé Peninsula line since 2015. After hesitating for two years, the ministry opted for the total reopening of the Matapedia to Gaspé line, after toying with the idea of abandoning the Caplan to Gaspé section, which was put in a dormant state in March 2015.

Later, the ministry committed to reopening the Caplan to Port Daniel section before the end of 2022. However, between June 2020 and February 2022, Transports Québec went 20 months without issuing a bridge call for tenders pertaining to a structure located between Caplan and Port Daniel. That delay lowers the revenues of the transporter, the Gaspésie Railway Society, a corporation owned by the four MRCs covering the territory between Matapedia and Gaspé.

No date is set yet for the reopening of the line between



Photo: Courtesy of Anthony Bernard Prince

The contract to repair the Port Daniel bridge located just east of the train station comprises the refurbishment of the structure, but also moving the track over a certain length and changing slightly the orientation of the bridge.

Port Daniel and Gaspé but track work has been carried out over many sections of that stretch. The bridges of that area also need thorough repairs though and, in some cases, replacements.

Another construction site will soon be up and running along the line, as a call for tenders pertaining to the relocation of the railroad east of the Port Daniel cement plant over a distance of 1,557 metres closed on October 12. The track will have to be moved at least eight metres to the north in order to avoid damage from the cliff that triggered a washout in 2014.

Four contractors submitted bids for that job. Fernand Gilbert Limitée sent the lowest tender at \$15,200,000. The call for tenders' deadline was postponed a few times over recent weeks. The contract has not been awarded yet since Transports Québec must check the conformity of the bids. That verification process usually takes a few weeks.

The contractor will have to

carry out the job within six months from the time Transports Québec confirms its choice. The contract also in-

cludes building a railway yard at the cement plant.

(Information supplied by Anthony Bernard Prince)

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Photo: Courtesy of Anthony Bernard Prince



CALL FOR TENDERS

Contractor for Snow Removal

NOVEMBER 1, 2022-APRIL 30, 2023

This contract will be for the CASA office:
168, Gérard D Levesque
New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0 (Old Laurentian Bank)

The contractor will be responsible for the following: snow removal and salting of:

- Main entrance (including sidewalk)
- Side entrance
- Back deck upstairs (weekly)

The snow must be removed no later than 7:30 a.m. and when required at lunch. The salt is provided by CASA.

All sealed tenders must be clearly marked as to the contents and submitted to:
Ashley Renouf
CASA, 168 Boulevard Gérard D Levesque,
New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0
ashley@casa-gaspe.com

Tenders will be received until **Friday, October 28, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

The lowest or any quotation will not necessarily be accepted. CASA reserves the right to award the contract in any manner it may choose.



EMPLOYABILITY AGENT

CINDY CARNEY

Cindy is here to support individuals that are currently seeking employment or other job related services

- Resume building
- Job search
- Interview tips
- Do you need information or help with a job application?

To make an appointment, please call the CASA office at 418-752-5995 Ext. 116 or by e-mail at cindy@casa-gaspe.com

Secrétariat à la jeunesse Québec

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