

Jonatan Julien meets with elected officials

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NEW RICHMOND – During his visit to the Gaspé Peninsula on December 1, Quebec Transport Minister Jonatan Julien met with executives from the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG) to discuss the rail rehabilitation project.

On March 27, the Quebec government announced a re-

turn to the planning phase due to cost overruns of between \$150 million and \$200 million on section 3, between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé.

“This was my first meeting with the new minister. It’s always valuable to have the opportunity to share our concerns for the region and the importance of the project. It was a very cordial and constructive

meeting,” commented Éric Dubé, president of the railway corporation.

No firm commitments were made during this initial discussions, but Quebec’s commitment remains, despite the obstacles. “The objective is very clear for us. The ministry is working towards that goal. The challenges of rehabilitating the third section, whether

technical or financial, are significant, but we are focused on finding solutions,” Mr. Dubé maintains.

The rationale needs to be redeveloped. “And at the same time, we need to find solutions,” the president adds.

In the past, the company has been called upon to carry out work for the ministry to help expedite work on section

2.

No financial figures were discussed during the exchange.

“We’re really not at the stage of putting figures on the costs to complete the project,” Éric Dubé says.

Another challenge will be ensuring the project is included in the next provincial budget and the Quebec Infrastructure Plan.