



No specific date for Port-Daniel-Gascons

NELSON SERGERIE

RIMOUSKI – Although the president of the Société du Chemin de Fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG) recently mentioned that trains should be running to Port-Daniel-Gascons in November, the Quebec Department of Transportation is not confirming any specific date.

In an email to SPEC, the department stated that it is “finalizing the last few steps on the section between Caplan and Port-Daniel-Gascons. Once this work is complete, inspections will be carried out before the line is put into service. It should be noted that corrective work may be neces-



A train performs ballast work on the tracks in the Port-Daniel-Gascons area.

Photo: Henri Grenier

sary after the inspections,” wrote spokesperson Julie Marcoux.

Once the line is ready, the SCFG will be responsible for authorizing train movements. Operations could begin even if some level crossings have

yet to be upgraded, since Transport Canada regulations have changed in the 12 years since trains last ran on the line.

Some level crossings will require the installation of barriers, but this will not prevent service from resuming. In the

meantime, locomotive engineers may need to slow down or stop completely before certain crossings.

No news for section 3

When asked about the status of section three, between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé, the department said it still has no concrete updates following last March’s announcement that the project had returned to the planning phase.

“The rehabilitation of the section between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé will be reviewed in its entirety to ensure that the project is carried out

at the lowest possible cost, given the economic context. Until the planning phase is complete, no timeline or cost can be provided,” wrote Ms. Marcoux.

The Quebec government had previously allocated \$500 million for this final section, but bids came in roughly \$200 million higher than expected.

“In accordance with the mandates already initiated, nine construction sites are underway and will be completed as planned on this section. However, six other sites that have not yet been started or are at a very preliminary stage have been postponed,” notes the ministry.