

Railway tracks: Construction rules relaxed

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CHANDLER: - The Quebec government has quietly eased regulations governing construction near railway tracks, much to the satisfaction of elected officials in the Rocher-Percé MRC.

Last fall, the Quebec government announced a regulation increasing the construction margin to 300 metres from a railway line and 1,000 metres from a marshalling yard, raising concerns among the mayors of Grande-Rivière and Chandler.

The revised rules will allow construction within 30 metres of a railway line and 300 metres of a marshalling yard.

"This is very good news. It is the result of efforts by the MRC, the mayor of Chandler, the mayor of Grande-Rivière, and other elected officials elsewhere in Quebec. It was a major obstacle for everything related to residential and commercial development," explains MRC Prefect Samuel Parisé.

He added that the 30-metre margin is sufficient. "In some places, municipal regulations will be stricter. We want to ensure that people build their homes in safe areas and that people are safe," explains Mr. Parisé. Additional safety features may be added if municipalities deem them necessary.

In the MRC of Rocher-Percé, the railway line runs through the centres of Port-Daniel-Gascons, Chandler, Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé and Grande-Rivière. The rules announced last fall were becoming restrictive. "It was jeopardizing certain residential developments. We won't hide that. We need housing to accommodate our people. It was essential to change the 300-metre rule," explains Mr. Parisé.

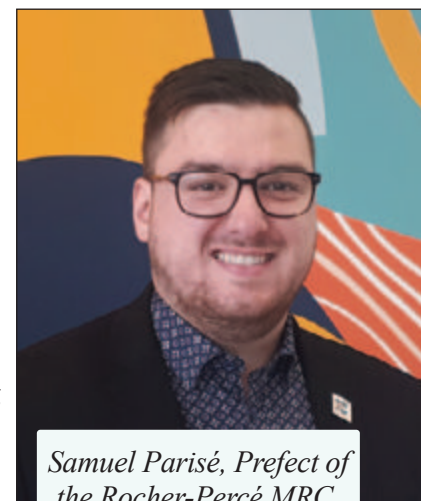


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