

Méganne Perry Mélançon goes on the offensive

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GASPÉ – On August 31, Méganne Perry Mélançon launched her third election campaign by attacking the incumbent Member of the National Assembly's (MNA's) record with concrete examples while outlining the key points of her platform.

"I hope to secure victory without a recount," said the Parti Québécois (PQ) candidate, who defeated Liberal Alexandre Boulay by a narrow majority of 41 votes following a judicial recount in 2018 and lost by 710 votes to Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) candidate Stéphane Sainte-Croix in 2022.

According to her, the provincial campaign will not focus solely on the Canada-U.S. tariff war. She highlighted the PQ's key economic priorities: ending waste in projects like Northvolt, reducing regulation and bureaucracy for businesses, and diversifying



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Méganne Perry Mélançon addressed the approximately 40 supporters who attended the opening of her campaign office in Gaspé.

export markets.

To promote her candidacy, Méganne Perry Mélançon points to her own track record during her 2018–2022 term and goes further by citing various projects that have failed in

the riding of Gaspé since 2022.

These include the arena project, which was not selected in a call for proposals for this type of infrastructure, the Espace bleu de la Gaspésie in Percé, which cost \$26 million and, according to the candidate, lacks a clear purpose; and the delay in the rail rehabilitation project under the Quebec Infrastructure Plan.

Without naming him, the PQ candidate took aim at her CAQ opponent, Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

"The facts speak for themselves. There are many things that leave us wanting more—and rightly so—because if we'd had a representative who actually made the effort, we would have seen different results," says Ms. Perry Mélançon.

"I don't want to judge his work because, in any case, the citizens will judge for themselves," she says, when asked to evaluate her main opponent.

According to her, these examples are the result of the

centralization of power.

"These aren't isolated cases. They demonstrate a government that makes decisions from Quebec City, that politicizes issues, and that doesn't trust people in the regions. We need to restore power and trust to the people in the regions toward the government."

Among the other issues, she intends to debate during the campaign are health care issues—notably reimbursement for travel expenses—the issue of air travel, which will involve a public consultation, and funding for community organizations following the end of food assistance at Accueil Blanche-Goulet.

While the Coalition for the Return of a passenger train to the Gaspé Peninsula and VIA Rail are seeking concrete commitments to rehabilitate the rail line to Gaspé, Méganne Perry Mélançon does not want to be boxed into a corner.

"We won't be giving a timeline or specific amounts.

We have a lot of work to do with local partners before making any commitments. These are goals that the CAQ had and failed to meet. We're really upset about that. We'll start working on this from day one with partners who want more local control. That's what we intend to do," says Mélançon, who does not wish to conflate the needs of passenger and freight transportation.

When asked whether she might be a potential cabinet minister, having been a prominent figure over the past four years as a national spokesperson for the PQ following her four years in the National Assembly, she sidestepped the question.

"I'll leave that up to my leader. We're a long way from that point. What I'm asking for is the trust of people who know I'm thorough. We'll see if we're in government, and I'll be happy to continue this work with a competent team from the Parti Québécois," the candidate replies.