

## Rail: Single bid leads to a possible second call for tenders

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GASPÉ - According to the Ministry of Transport it is analyzing several possibilities considering only one bidder submitted a proposal following a December call of tenders on one of the four large groupings of contracts for the Port Daniel-Gaspé railroad section. The December 7 call for tenders involved nine infrastructure projects including bridges over the Grand Pabos River, and several retaining walls, including those in Anse-à-Beaufils and Sandy Beach.

The only bidder, Pomerleau, submitted an offer of \$104 million. According to information obtained by SPEC, one option under consideration is to split the contract into several blocks to stimulate competition.

Our sources indicate that

each additional delay becomes problematic for obtaining the required materials in time for the execution of the work.

The same source discreetly suggests that if the deadlines continue to drag out, they fear it will no longer be possible to reach Gaspé in 2026.

For the moment, only one contract has been awarded, to Groupe Séma, based in Sainte-Flavie, for the rehabilitation of the bridges over the Grande-Rivière and Anse-à-Brillant. The bridges over the Émile-Couture stream in Grande-Rivière and near the beach in Gaspé will also be rebuilt. The total amount of the contract is \$74.9 million.

Another call for bids launched on December 11 concerns six bridges to be repaired in Pabos Mills, Pabos and Anse-à-Beaufils.

The company Stellaire



The contract to relocate a section of track in New Carlisle and Paspébiac could be the source of a dispute between Pomerleau and Transports Québec.

Photo: G. Gagné

Construction of Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures submitted a bid of \$37 million to carry out this work. However, the contract has still not been awarded, according to the electronic tender site of the Government of Quebec.

The result of the last call for tenders carried out in March for two of the bridges to be repaired in Gascons, a third between Gascons and Newport, a fourth in Newport and a fifth in Douglstown, as well as the replacement of a

bridge between Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé and Grande-Rivière will be known on June 12.

This project also includes the construction of a retaining

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**RAIL:** Transport's construction site

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wall at Pabos Mills and culverts.

### Potential dispute between Pomerleau and Transports Québec

Furthermore, Pomerleau, which is moving the track in New Carlisle and Paspébiac, is reportedly in dispute with Transports Québec.

The conflict would relate to elements of the site which were not included in the Ministry of

specifications, according to information obtained by SPEC.

Pomerleau requested adjustments for this additional work and, according to what we learned, lawyers are now involved.

In response to our questions, the ministry wrote that when carrying out the work, if a contractor believes that it is harmed in any way in relation to the contract clauses, he must notify the ministry with supporting proof.

Without an agreement, the contractor can then submit a

claim.

"Site dispute situations are confidential and only concern the ministry and the contractor involved," stated the ministry in an email, but will not comment on the matter publicly.

On the Pomerleau side, it is specified that "our teams and those of the ministry are collaborating to project progress, as is also the case for all of the achievements on which we work. However, given the legal content of the exchanges, we cannot comment further at this time," mentions the company in an email response.