

At the last Percé Rock MRC public meeting held last week in Chandler, Prefect and Mayor of Chandler, Claude Cyr, presented a letter that the MRC is addressing to the Québec Ministry of Environment asking for an "urgent" meeting with the Ministry in order to solve the crisis.

Where does the problem stand? Percé Rock MRC's letter states that the only element left and 'indispensable' for the realization of the LET project is the authorization from the Québec Ministry of Environment of a modification to increase the waste volume of garbage from 16,000 metric

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ons (MT) per year to 33,000 MT in order to meet the needs of both MRCs. Now, Claude Cyr is accusing an ecologist group, the *Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets*, of blocking the project. "The Group is opposed to the modification and they propose instead 24,000 metric tons. It blocks our project at the Ministry level. And what we won't tolerate is a board from outside our region putting a stick in our spokes, while a regional environmental board (*Conseil régional de l'environnement de*

*la Gaspésie*) supports us in this process."

In other words, Mr. Cyr is asking the *Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets* to "mind it's own business!" Reached by SPEC, the Director General of the Front commun, Karel Ménard, fired back by saying that "we're not blocking the procedure, we are part of it. Our organization has participated in this project from the start, years ago, with another environmental group from Gaspé, the Comité de protection et de santé environ-

nementale de Gaspé, in the theme of an environmental mediation with respect to the Law." Karel Ménard says that Mr. Cyr is not "helping himself by acting the way he is. And Mr. Cyr hasn't contacted us".

In fact, Mr. Ménard has sent documents to SPEC pertaining to this file, and one of the letters, dated last April, shows that the Town of Gaspé, the owner and manager of the LET, asked the Québec Government to raise the volume to 40,000 MT, not 33,000 MT, as Mr. Cyr previously said. Nevertheless, he adds, "we have

proposed instead to the Québec Ministry of Environment to raise the volume to 24,000 MT. That number comes from the estimation of waste management of both MRCs. We are not opposing just to oppose, we follow the rules and we have a say at the table. Now the Minister of the Environment, Ly Beauchamp, has the last word of course but we have to be consulted, we have a say in the story. And we also want to meet with the Ministry of Environment."

