



## Help Save the Railway on the Gaspé Coast meeting

— Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER: – On June 19, The Help Save the Railway on the Gaspé Coast movement will hold a meeting at the Motel Fraser in Chandler, at 10 a.m. They will present the project to bring back VIA Rail's passenger train between Matapédia and Gaspé. The project is spearheaded by citizens, including Gilles Lamy, a retired CN and VIA Rail employee, Bernard Babin, Cynthia Patterson and Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Member of Parliament Philip Toone. They have received a lot of support from a number of other people such

as Port Daniel's Anthony Bernard Prince, as well as people from outside the region. "We want to present the project that will soon be submitted to Transport-Québec, the owner of the line, and VIA Rail. We want to use Budd automotive cars, because they are lighter than a conventional train, considering that the bearing capacity of some bridges is reduced at the present time," says Bernard Babin. In 2006, VIA Rail's conventional train carried 29,593 passengers and 27,991 in 2010. During its last year of operation to Gaspé, the average was approximately 190 people per round trip.