

Four letters away from their goal

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – As of February 22, the Gaspesians working together for the future of the train have convinced at least 1,496 people to send letters to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in order to have him intervene to bring VIA Rail's passenger service back to the Gaspé Peninsula. It is just four letters short of the second goal set by the three leaders of the coalition, Gilles Lamy, Bernard Babin and Anthony Bernard Prince. "We will soon reach our new goal of 1,500! I think our voices are starting to be heard," said Mr. Prince. "Let's keep working hard! Please continue spreading the word about how important the passenger train service is to the Gaspe coast."

The Gaspesians working together for the future of the train continue to receive letters of support from all over Canada.

Vivian Scott from Mississauga, Ontario wrote on February 12: "I had to leave the Gaspé coast to pursue job opportunities in Montreal and Toronto in the late 70s. My 91 year old mother still lives there and without the train it makes it very difficult for me to visit my mother on a regular basis. Driving to the Gaspé from Toronto was an easy 16 hour drive years ago however as I age I find it more difficult, so please bring back the train!!!"

Edith Cunningham from Cornwall, Ontario wrote on February 12: "I have an aging mother in the Gaspé area who needs assistance and is unable to drive. To come to the city for medical appointments, she requires transportation. Her children, who are also getting older, must drive to the Gaspé area to get her to bring her to Montreal for her treatments. Prior to the discontinuation of the train, we could easily go and return from Montreal to the Gaspé coast. It would greatly be appreciated if the train service could be reinstated."

Allan Sinclair from Ingleside, Ontario wrote on February 12: "Being from Cullen's Brook, Bonaventure County, it is sad to think there is no train to use to go back and forth to visit family and friends. Please put the train back on the tracks."

Betty Sinclair from Ingleside, Ontario wrote on February 12: "I was born and raised on the Gaspé coast. After completing my schooling I had to move to the city to seek job opportunities. I was able to go back and forth to visit

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my family with the VIA train for many years. It is so sad today to think our 91 year old mother as well as many friends are still there and we have no means of transportation to go there to see them. Please bring the train back to the Gaspé coast."

Bob & Gloria Ross from

Ottawa, Ontario wrote on February 12: "How bad is it not to have a train on the coast. People are unable to visit their families that live out of town unless they drive. No matter where you live there is without a doubt the need for a train for transportation especially on the Gaspé coast. Please, please, please do something and get back on track with the lovely Gaspé Coast."