

## *Letters to the Editor*

### **Let's get VIA Rail's passenger train back on the Matapedia to Gaspé line.**

Since September 2013 the future of VIA Rail's passenger train service on the Gaspé coast has been uncertain! Since May 2015 I have been a member of the Coalition de Gaspésiens pour l'avenir du train/Gaspesians working together for the future of the train, a group that is working very hard to try and bring the passenger train back. We worked very hard during the year of 2015, we are hoping for some positive results soon.

In December 2016 we produced a letter to send to the Prime Minister of Canada. The letter highlights the many important reasons why the Gaspé coast needs the passenger train. I have talked to many people in Port Daniel West and Shigawake over the past few months. I have also talked to family and friends living away about the train. Every person I have spoken to would like to see the train running again. But mostly what every person asks me is was anybody taking the train? I tell them yes, many people used the train. Our train had better ridership than the other two regional trains in Quebec. In 2011 the last year our train went all the way to Gaspé, 27,991 people travelled on it. We can't give up fighting! The only way to get the train back is to work together. We must keep putting pressure on both levels of government. So I ask everyone to please download, print, sign and send in a copy of the letter to the Prime Minister, no postage required.

Our goal is to send at least 1000 letters to the Prime Minister. The letter is available on our website [www.gaspetrain.org](http://www.gaspetrain.org) in French and English. Be sure to check out my facebook group "help save the railway on the Gaspé coast" for all the latest news about our efforts to bring back the passenger train.

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