



Photo: G. Gagné

RéGIM looking once again at having a summer shuttle service.

RéGÎM: VIA Rail shuttle service

Nelson **Sergerie** VIA Rail.

GASPÉ - Users of the VIA Rail train in Campbellton, New Brunswick, could have access to a summer shuttle service operated by the *RéGÎM, the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine*.

Thanks to positive feedback, the organization is considering the opportunity to once again offer this service that was in place during the last two summers.

The president of the RÉGÎM, Daniel Côté, does not want to commit himself, nor the board of directors, to this promise. There is still work to be done with the Government of Quebec and

VIA Rail.

"The initial direction of the RÉGÎM's Board of Directors is to go in that direction. There seems to be a demand. We recently received a letter from a citizen telling us that the service would be really appreciated. We think there is potential for tourism. We think about all this and, yes, we are working on an implementation and the file could be announced sometime in April," says Mr. Côté.

Moving forward without Quebec

The organization's budget surpluses, estimated at \$300,000 for 2018, would make it possible to move forward with the service. This is despite Quebec's refusal to

fund the shuttle organized during the 2018 holidays. The organization had to pay the estimated operating loss of approximately \$8,000 without support from the provincial government.

A new funding application may be filed with the Ministry of Transport. "We will not count on it. We still intend to carry out the project, even if it means realizing it with our own funds and with the support of VIA Rail. That's what we want." Government rules require the RÉGÎM to reinvest its surplus in public transit. A reinvestment plan must be produced. In addition to the VIA Rail shuttle, the addition of other public transit services could be considered.