

## RÉGIM shuttle service gets slightly better results than a year ago

● Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The number of passengers using the RÉGIM shuttle service to take the VIA Rail train in Campbellton fell slightly over the Christmas and New Year's Day break compared to the corresponding 2017-2018 period but the occupancy rate increased slightly.

In 2017-2018, 204 passengers had used 21 shuttles between Gaspé and Campbellton, compared to 187 people in 15 shuttles over the last holidays. The occupancy rate of the bus went from 18 to 24% between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

The RÉGIM management considers that traffic increase

a success and praises VIA Rail's collaboration, which was "a key element in the success of that project," says Marie-André Pichette, director general of the *Régie intermunicipale de transport de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine*, or RÉGIM.

"For a second year, the results are positive and show that there is demand for that service. The shuttles fill a need of the population. We also gather that through the numerous positive comments made by users and the encouragement of the organizations linked to the service. The budgetary objectives of users' revenues were even reached this year," points out Daniel Côté, president of RÉGIM.

The president of VIA Rail, Yves Desjardins-Siciliano is glad that the shuttle service coupled by his corporation's Ocean train satisfied the users.

"That excellent intermodal option allowed people to leave their cars at home, avoid the stress of winter driving and have a good time on board," he said.

Since 2010, RÉGIM has offered a weekday shuttle service in the five MRCs of the Gaspé Peninsula, as well as in the Magdalen Islands. The company also offers special services on certain occasions, including the VIA Rail shuttle during the Christmas break. RÉGIM carries approximately 100,000 people yearly.