

## **RÉGÎM's summer shuttle service was a success**

*Nelson Sergerie*

GASPÉ - The RÉGÎM's VIA Rail summer shuttle transported 447 people between Gaspé and Campbellton, a success in the eyes of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine intermunicipal transportation board.

"It was pretty much in the numbers we had set. In terms of the budget, it respected the budget forecasts. It was already planned that it would not pay for itself," explains the President of the RÉGÎM, Daniel Côté.

The board had estimated between 400 and 500 passengers and \$35,000 for its operation but the actual costs were \$36,000.

Despite several attempts to obtain help from the Ministry of Transport, no help from Quebec was received.

The budget for this first summer shuttle was drawn from the organization's accumulated surplus. The RÉGÎM will be looking for partners for the shuttle during the Christmas holidays and the summer of 2020.

"This is the mandate given to the team to work with VIA Rail to re-establish the holiday route and we also asked to find financial means to support this service.

The RÉGÎM adopted its 2020 budget in continuity with \$ 3million, half of which comes from the one-cent tax on every litre of gas sold in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.