



Return of the VIA Rail shuttle

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NEW RICHMOND - The RÉGÎM summer shuttle bus will return this summer. The board of directors made this decision even if it must use its accumulated surpluses to provide this deficit service.

The president, Daniel Côté, considers that this shuttle is part of the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine's mandate.

"It represents costs for the organization. On the other hand, our vision is to offer travel opportunities to citizens here and elsewhere," says Mr. Côté.

Last summer, 447 passengers used the service to the tune of \$35,000, but the RÉGÎM has not yet set a goal for this year.

VIA Rail pays the portion of the Matapedia-Gaspé ticket to the agency, which finances half of the operation.

"We have a certain financial surplus which allows us to offer it to the population, but we will not be able to maintain this service either without funding from Quebec," says the president.

During the Christmas holidays, 15 shuttles were offered and 169 used the service. That is 19 less passengers compared to 2018 when 187 people used the service. The deficit was \$8,000.