



## VIA Rail unwilling to address possibility of a shorter route

— Gilles **Gagné**

MATAPEDIA – VIA Rail refuses to address the particular scenario of reinstating a service between Montreal and Matapedia or Carleton, would the health authorities of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick still maintain the Atlantic bubble past November 1.

In two rounds of written questions sent to the media service of the transporter, and despite an insistence put on the point of an eventual shortened route, Karl-Philip Marchand Giguère, VIA Rail's public relations' advisor, completely ignored that scenario. "We are still working at resuming the service of the Ocean in November as announced initially. We are working on the development of health and safety protocols that must be implemented for

safe onboard travel," first answers Mr. Marchand-Giguère. "In order to protect the passengers and the employees, VIA Rail is currently conducting a detailed analysis of the numerous aspects involved in travelling, including the ventilation systems, the service classes and the scheduling as well as the food and beverage services. That is particularly important in situations where wearing a mask over long periods can be considered," adds Mr. Marchand-Giguère.

VIA Rail is working on the best way to resume service of the Canadian and Ocean trains and will communicate further information once a plan is reached, writes Mr. Marchand-Giguère.

The SPEC will try again to reach VIA Rail over the next weeks in order to get answers to all the questions.