



## Large surplus at the RéGÎM

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**CARLETON-SUR-MER** - Despite the pandemic and its impacts, the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine ends its 2020 fiscal year with a significant surplus of \$600,000.

Due to the lockdown that occurred in the spring of 2020 and no summer shuttle for festivals and Via Rail the Régie was able to save money.

In addition, the surprising increase in gasoline tax revenues, to the tune of nearly \$1.5 million, one of the highest ever, and due to the exceptional traffic of tourists last summer and the popularity of online shopping, which has resulted in more deliveries



Photos: N. Sergerie

*The RéGÎM's Via Rail shuttle could resume service this year.*

and the consumption of more fuel, are all contributing factors.

This surplus makes it pos-

sible to carry out development projects. "We have a development fund that allows us to invest in our major projects

such as those announced in the last year such as TCiTE or the mobility plan project. This allows us to make capital investments and create development at the management," indicates the general manager, Marie-Andrée Pichette.

Launched in June, the TCiTE municipal electric vehicle car-sharing project is off to a good start, on target, with about 20 users. The Régie wants to double the pace in the fall.

### Return of the Via Rail shuttle?

The Via Rail shuttle could be back this summer.

The rail carrier recently reported the return of the Ocean train between Montreal and Halifax once a week starting

August 11. The train stops in Matapedia and Campbellton, New Brunswick.

The CEO finds this feedback interesting, especially since the activities are integrated into the Via Rail platform.

Already, customers have expressed an interest.

"We have not had any contact with Via Rail. We have contacted the organization with which we are working on the projects and we are awaiting feedback on the possibility of organizing the shuttle. But we are seriously considering it. It would give us a glimpse of what it could be like for the holiday shuttle," explains Ms. Pichette.

If the shuttle returns, it could be in effect until the end of September.