

RéGÎM's VIA Rail shuttle to return

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - After being disrupted by the pandemic, the VIA Rail shuttle organized by the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine will be back on June 22.

This is the third summer for the service that was introduced in 2019, but suffered the impacts of the pandemic in 2020 and a late launch in 2021.

As early as April, riders were already inquiring with the transit agency about a possible return of the shuttle. Reservations have already been made.

"This is a service that is requested by citizens and tourists. We are very happy to announce the return of the service this summer," says Director Marie-Andrée Pichette.

In 2019, 447 passengers used the service. In 2021, in a season shortened from August 11 to September 30, 47 people used the shuttle.

"I expect a boom. I think the cost of gas is going to affect how tourists travel this summer. I think there will be more use of trains and long-distance public transportation. We will have to see how this will affect the shuttle service," says Director Pichette.

VIA Rail will offer three trains this summer between Montreal and Halifax. The same type of shuttle is offered during the holiday season.



The VIA Rail shuttle is back full time this summer

Photo: N. Sergerie