

PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE: Show your support by sending postcards

GILLES GAGNÉ

PORT DANIEL – The Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the passenger train now have hundreds of postcards available. They are encouraging people to send them to three federal ministers: Environment Minister, Steven Guilbeault; Canada Revenue Agency Minister, Diane Lebouthillier, who is also a Member of Parliament for the riding of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine; and Canada's Transport Minister, Omar Alghabra, as well as Mario Pélouquin, the new president of VIA Rail. The Coalition hopes that by sending out these postcards it will accelerate the return of the Montreal to Gaspé train.

The postcards have photos of 12 different locations along the Matapédia to Gaspé line. The back of the postcard has a short message which reads "Considering that the railway will be safe between Matapédia and New Carlisle before the end of 2023, we are asking the federal government and VIA Rail Canada to resume the operation of its passenger train between these two points before the end of the year. We are also asking both parties to restore the service to Gaspé as soon as possible."

"People are encouraged to

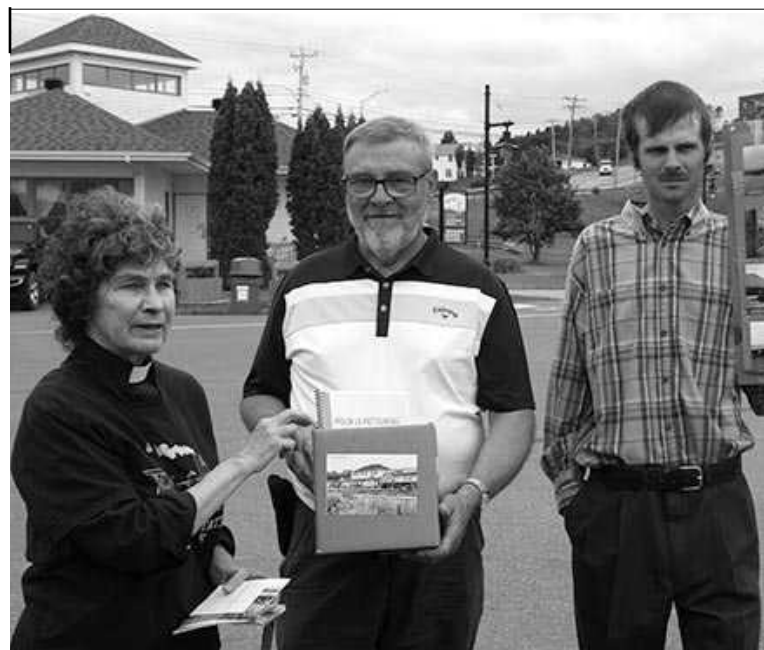


Photo: G. Gagné

Cynthia Patterson, Gilles Lamy and Anthony Bernard Prince show the postcards people can now send to federal ministers and the president of VIA Rail in order to pressure them to bring back the passenger train.

find the postcards and send them in. We want people to send them and not collect them. They don't need to put a stamp on them when they are sent to the ministers. A stamp is needed only for Mr. Pélouquin, the new president of VIA Rail.

The photos present a good sample of the Coast from Matapédia to Gaspé with the train in action. Some of the places are well-identified," explains Cynthia Patterson of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the train.

People will recognize some of the regional railroad's magnificent spots in Haldimand-Douglastown, Gaspé, Carleton, Port Daniel-Gascons, New Richmond, Chandler, New Carlisle, Matapédia and between Grande-Rivière and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.

Bernard Babin, an active member of the coalition, would like to remind people who are tempted to collect the postcards that the pictures are available online at www.gaspetrain.org.