

## Citizen mobilization day for the return of passenger train

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - The Coalition for the Return of Passenger Train Services in Gaspésie will participate in a day of mobilization to be held on Saturday, September 6, 2025, in collaboration with the Table d'échange et de mobilisation sur le transport rail.

In the morning, the Coalition invites the public to a major rally at the region's train stations between Matapédia and New Carlisle, with a small suitcase, starting at 10:30 a.m. This symbolic action aims to demonstrate that passenger trains in Gaspésie are necessary.

At 1 p.m., this activity will continue simultaneously at the Gaspé and Port Daniel stations, where regional elected officials, as well as citizen and business representatives, will speak to request on the one hand the resumption of work to complete the rehabilitation of the tracks to Gaspé and, on the second hand, the gradual return of passenger trains to Port-Daniel immediately and to Gaspé as soon as possible.



*VIA Rail's service between New Carlisle and Gaspé was suspended in December 2011.*

Photo: Gilles Gagné

The Gaspé event receives the collaboration of citizen movement Solidarité Gaspésie. Between Matapédia and New Carlisle, there are train stations in Carleton, Bonaventure and New Richmond.

VIA Rail's passenger train has been suspended between New Carlisle and Gaspé since mid-December 2011, and be-

tween Matapédia and New Carlisle since September 2013.

When the service was fairly reliable at the end of the 2000s, between 25,000 and 30,000 people were using the Montréal-Gaspé train annually. When the train was circulating daily, that number was reaching 90,000 passengers, according to VIA Rail's statistics of 1979.