

La Coalition des Gaspésiens pour le retour du train de passagers de VIA Rail

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Coalition des Gaspésiens pour le retour du train de passagers de VIA Rail (The Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the VIA Rail passenger train) is currently conducting a campaign in favor of the return of passenger train service between Matapédia and New Carlisle during the year 2024, pending the complete restoration of service to Gaspé.

We have produced a brief in which we demonstrate that it is possible, given the progress of the rail infrastructure repairs, to have passenger trains running from 2024. You will find this brief on our website by following this link: <https://www.gaspetrain.org/gt-pdfs/2023-10-25-Memoire-Demande-de-reprise-du-service-a-VIA-Rail.pdf>

We are soliciting the support of the region's political, socio-economic, community and environmental organizations in the region. As part of this campaign, we are asking you to support the process by adopting a resolution to this effect adopted by your municipal council or your board of directors. We are therefore submitting a draft resolution that may be useful to you.

We ask that you send us a copy of the resolution you will be adopting by mail or email (see contact information in the box).

<p>Coalition des Gaspésiens pour le retour du train de passagers de VIA Rail 240, route Gérard-D.-Lévesque, Port-Daniel-Gascons (Québec) G0C 2N0 https://www.gaspetrain.org info.gaspetrain@gmail.com</p>
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Online petition

We are also asking for the support of the population. It is in this sense that we invite you to sign and distribute the online petition which you will find at the following address: www.gaspetrain.org/petition

Thank you so much!

**DRAFT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RETURN OF THE VIA RAIL
TRAIN BETWEEN MATAPEDIA AND NEW CARLISLE IN 2024 AND TO
GASPÉ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

**La Coalition des Gaspésiens pour le retour du train de passagers de VIA Rail
(The Coalition of Gaspeians for the return of the VIA Rail passenger train)**

WHEREAS the Gaspé Peninsula has been deprived of any passenger rail service for nearly ten years, VIA Rail having withdrawn due to the poor condition of the track and bridges;

WHEREAS this service disruption causes serious health, economic and social damage to the region and its population;

WHEREAS the train, by encouraging a shift from private cars to public transit, contributes to the Government of Canada's efforts to meet its national and international obligations to reduce greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable has already carried out or is in the process of carrying out major infrastructure work to allow rail traffic to resume soon;

WHEREAS the progress of the renewal of the railway tracks and bridges will allow the safe circulation of trains, including those of VIA Rail, between Matapedia and New Carlisle during the year 2024;

WHEREAS, the rail facilities in New Carlisle, including turn around capacity, are well suited to the development of a temporary terminus at this location;

WHEREAS VIA Rail's fundamental mission is to serve the regions including the Gaspésie with a rail transportation service, and any unnecessary delay would constitute an abdication of this duty;

Whereas the return this year of passenger rail between Matapedia and New Carlisle, linked as soon as possible with a complementary regional transport, will provide a substantial gain for the entire region;

WHEREAS the population of Gaspé is still calling for the resumption of passenger rail service to Gaspé as soon as the state of the infrastructure allows;

THEREFORE, be it resolved

THAT (name of municipality or organization) request the federal government and VIA Rail to resume passenger rail service between Matapedia and New Carlisle during the year 2024;

THAT the federal government and VIA Rail commit to restoring full service between Matapedia and Gaspé as soon as the renewal work on the railway infrastructure is completed and will therefore allow the safe movement of trains.

December 2023

In order to allow the Coalition to track support for its work, could you please send a copy of the resolution passed.

By mail to:

Coalition des Gaspésiens pour le retour du train de passagers de VIA Rail
240, route Gérard-D.-Lévesque, Port-Daniel-Gascons (Québec) G0C 2N0

By email: info.gaspetrain@gmail.com