



**Relais
Nordik inc.**

Press Release

For Immediate Release

THE M/V BELLA DESGAGNÉS HAS RESUMED A MODIFIED SERVICE

Rimouski, December 28, 2020 — Relais Nordik, operator of the maritime service to Anticosti Island and the Lower North Shore, announced that the M/V *Bella Desgagnés*, which has been docked in Sept-Îles since December 17 in order to change the electric motor following a breakdown, resumed service yesterday, but in a modified mode.

Relais Nordik has many spare parts which are part of the contingency plans to ensure the continuous service of the vessel. Thus, following the failure of the electric propulsion motor on December 17, a replacement motor received from the supplier was installed and tested, but it broke down when leaving Sept-Îles on the evening of December 22. The sequence of events forces the company on a contingency plan to deliver the goods as quickly as possible.

Given that the *Bella Desgagnés* was designed and built to be able to navigate with a single azipod subject to the navigation conditions, Relais Nordik has made the decision, following several risk analysis, to undertake the next trip with a tug on board that can assist if necessary, during approaches in ports. The ship left Sept-Îles yesterday at noon, served Port-Menier very early this morning and is currently in Havre-Saint-Pierre.

The vessel has approximately 231 metric tonnes of cargo on board which is expected to be delivered during the week. The weather conditions will greatly influence the progress of the ship. The route will be changed and some ports may be visited only once downstream or upstream, depending on weather conditions.

All passengers who already have a reservation will be entitled to the alternative transport service. For future trips, no new passenger and vehicle reservations can be made given the many contingencies that the current solution could cause.

To ensure freshness, perishable goods that were to be received on December 28 will be received on January 4. Customers are therefore requested to notify their suppliers.

Customers will be able to follow the progress of M/V *Bella Desgagnés* by visiting the company's website <http://position.desgagnes.com/rni.asp> which will be updated regularly. The Company also invites customers waiting for goods to check with their local agent to know when they can pick it up.

The return to service of the Nordik Express has not been ruled out, but authorizations from the competent authorities are required before proceeding. The representatives of the Company thank its customers for their understanding.

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