

Media Release
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Autism Nova Scotia Hosts Annual Autism Aviators Event at Halifax Stanfield

Halifax, NS - Autism Nova Scotia hosted its annual Autism Aviators event at Halifax Stanfield International Airport on Saturday and saw 75 participants walk through the various steps of air travel with the goal of making flying more inclusive and accessible for Autistic individuals, their families and travel companions.

"At Autism Nova Scotia, we work hard to advocate for inclusion and acceptance for all people across the province," said Amanda Alexander, Executive Director, Autism Nova Scotia. "Air travel can be stressful for many. Autism Aviators shows people what they can expect and how best to prepare for the airport experience. We're so grateful to Halifax Stanfield for partnering with us to offer this accessible program."

Supported by Porter Airlines, participants walked through the ins-and-outs of air travel, including the check-in process, security, boarding a plane and pre-flight procedures. After the walkthrough, an after party was held at the observation deck where food and beverages were served, photos were taken, presentations were made, and participants received certificates.

"At Halifax Stanfield, we believe that air travel should be an experience that everyone can approach with confidence and comfort, no matter their unique needs," said Joyce Carter, President & CEO, Halifax International Airport Authority (HIAA). "That's why we are so proud to collaborate with our wonderful partners at Autism Nova Scotia on the Autism Aviators program. Seeing the dedication of the participants, our partners, volunteers, and HIAA employees come together to support this important program is truly inspiring. Together, we are making meaningful strides towards a more inclusive and accessible airport community."

The Autism Aviators program is held in partnership with Halifax Stanfield International Airport and the J.A. Douglas McCurdy Sydney Airport. It began in 2016 when HIAA approached Autism Nova Scotia to discuss programming for autistic children and youth. Saturday's event was the fourth time Autism Aviators was held at Halifax Stanfield, with a pause during COVID. Previous events were held in 2017, 2019, and 2023.

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About Autism Nova Scotia:

Autism Nova Scotia is a non-profit community-based organization that builds understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for Autistics/individuals on the autism spectrum and their families through leadership, advocacy, education, training, and programming across the lifespan. Autism Nova Scotia was founded in 2002 by Joan and Jack Craig, parents of an autistic adult son.

Autism Nova Scotia delivers programming in Halifax and across Nova Scotia through our eight Regional Autism Centres. Our programs and services include Social & Community Inclusion; Mental Health & Wellness; Post Secondary & Employment Support; Community Engagement; and Family & Caregiver Support.

www.autismnovascotia.ca