

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Autism Aviators Takes Flight at Halifax Stanfield International Airport

Inclusive airport experience supports Autistic travelers

HALIFAX, NS – Autism Nova Scotia and Halifax Stanfield International Airport are once again teaming up to host Autism Aviators, an inclusive and educational event designed for Autistic people to become more familiar and comfortable with the air travel experience.

Today at Halifax Stanfield International Airport, Autism Aviators provides participants with a guided, hands-on walkthrough of the airport journey, including check-in, security screening, waiting in departures, and boarding an aircraft (without actual travel). The event offers a supportive, sensory-friendly environment where participants can experience what it's like to travel by air, reducing stress and increasing confidence for future trips.

"We are so grateful for the chance to experience the processes and environment of air travel prior to the real deal so we are all better prepared. We are hoping to reschedule a trip soon and are very hopeful it will be positive for everyone now that we know exactly what to expect!" Parent of Autism Aviators participant.

This year's Autism Aviators event is made possible through the generous support of Porter Airlines, whose team plays an important role in helping bring the experience to life for participants.

"The travel journey is something we hope all of our passengers look forward to, and our team welcomes the opportunity to support programs such as Autism Aviators that help individuals build confidence and comfort for future trips," said Kent Woodside, executive vice president and COO, Porter Airlines.

"Autism Aviators helps create a sense of belonging and confidence for autistic travelers and their families," said Amanda Alexander, CEO, Autism Nova Scotia. "We're grateful to partner with Halifax Stanfield International Airport and Porter Airlines through this program designed to make air travel more accessible and inclusive for our community."

Autism Aviators first launched at Halifax Stanfield in 2016 and has since become an annual event that demonstrates the impact of collaboration, inclusion, and accessibility in action. Through this partnership, Autism Nova Scotia and Halifax Stanfield continue to support understanding and inclusion in air travel, one boarding pass at a time.

"Ensuring Halifax Stanfield is an accessible and inclusive airport for all travellers remains a top priority for our organization. Our partnership with Autism Nova Scotia through the Autism Aviators program reinforces our commitment to reducing barriers and supporting travellers who may benefit from extra preparation before their journey. We're grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with community partners to ensure our airport reflects the needs of the people we serve," said Joyce Carter, President & CEO, Halifax International Airport Authority.

ABOUT AUTISM NOVA SCOTIA

Founded in 2002, Autism Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization that supports Autistic people, their families, and caregivers through advocacy, education, and programming. With 10 locations across the province, Autism Nova Scotia works together with community to build inclusion, acceptance, and belonging for Autistic people. Learn more at autismnovascotia.ca.

ABOUT HALIFAX STANFIELD

Halifax Stanfield is Atlantic Canada's principal full-service airport, providing passengers and cargo clients with direct access to markets across Canada, the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean Basin, Europe, and Asia. Halifax Stanfield offers Canada Customs services on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis and is the only airport in Atlantic Canada with U.S. preclearance and International to Domestic processing facilities. The airport is a significant economic generator, contributing \$4.1 billion annually to the provincial economy. In 2024, Halifax Stanfield served 4 million passengers and processed 26,200 metric tonnes of cargo. A recognized innovator in the global airport industry, Halifax Stanfield was the first airport in North America to offer a self-service baggage drop system for all passengers and is consistently ranked among the best airports in the world.

ABOUT PORTER

Since 2006, Porter Airlines has been elevating the experience of economy air travel for every passenger, providing genuine hospitality with style, care and charm. Porter's fleet of Embraer E195-E2 and De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft serves a North American network from Eastern Canada. Headquartered in Toronto, Porter is an Official 4 Star Airline® in the World Airline Star Rating®. Visit www.flyporter.com or follow @porterairlines on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

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