



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## ***Autism Aviation Day Helps Confidence Soar at Halifax Stanfield International Airport***

**HALIFAX, NS** – Autism Nova Scotia, in partnership with Air Canada, the Air Canada Foundation, and Halifax Stanfield International Airport (HIAA), hosted Autism Aviation Day on June 21. The event provided Autistic individuals and their families with the chance to experience every stage of air travel – from check-in and security screening to boarding, takeoff, flight, and landing.

Building on the success of the annual Autism Aviators program, Autism Aviation Day highlighted how collaboration across the aviation sector can help reduce barriers and support more accessible and inclusive travel opportunities for the Autistic community.

"We were proud to host Air Canada's Autism Aviation Day event, which gave individuals and families the opportunity to experience the airport journey in a supportive environment before they travel," said Marie Manning, VP, Business Development & CCO, HIAA. "At Halifax Stanfield, we are committed to creating an airport that is accessible, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone. Events like this demonstrate the impact we can have when we work together to remove barriers and create more inclusive travel experiences."

More than 80 participants attended the event, gaining firsthand experience with the airport environment before taking to the skies around the Halifax region aboard a real Air Canada flight.

"This initiative shows what is possible when partners across the aviation ecosystem come together with a shared goal," said Eric Lauzon, Director, Community Relations and Partnerships, Air Canada. "By working collaboratively, we can reduce barriers, support families in meaningful ways, and help make the travel experience more inclusive from start to finish."

Autism Aviation Day helped Autistic individuals and their families become more familiar with the sights, sounds, and routines associated with air travel, making journeys feel more comfortable and less overwhelming.

"Everyone should have the opportunity to participate fully in the experiences that matter to them," said Vicki Harvey, Interim CEO of Autism Nova Scotia. "We are grateful to our partners for helping make this event possible for the Autistic community as they explore and prepare for future travel."

## 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 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](http://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 THE AIR CANADA FOUNDATION

The Air Canada Foundation, a not-for-profit organization focused on the health and well-being of children and youth, was launched in 2012. It offers both financial and in-kind support to Canadian-registered charities. Core programs include the Hospital Transportation Program (HTP), which redistributes Aeroplan points to partners of the Air Canada Foundation HTP, including 15 pediatric hospitals across the country, Hope Air and the David Foster Foundation. All donated points enable sick children to access the medical care they need away from home. The Air Canada Foundation, in collaboration with the airline, also engages directly in fundraising activities, such as the Every Bit Counts program, which encourages customers to donate loose change of all denominations on board flights or through collection containers available in Air Canada Maple Leaf Lounges. The Foundation also offers continued support to major health-related causes that benefit Canadians and is an active participant in international humanitarian relief activity as the need arises.

## ABOUT AIR CANADA

Air Canada is Canada's largest airline, the country's flag carrier and a founding member of Star Alliance, the world's most comprehensive air transportation network. Air Canada provides scheduled service directly to more than 180 airports in Canada, the United States and Internationally on six continents. It holds a Four-Star ranking from Skytrax. Air Canada's Aeroplan program is Canada's premier travel loyalty program, where members can earn or redeem points on the world's largest airline partner network of 45 airlines, plus through an extensive range of merchandise, hotel and car rental partners. Through Air Canada Vacations, it offers more travel choices than any other Canadian tour operator to hundreds of destinations worldwide, with a wide selection of hotels, flights, cruises, day tours, and car rentals. Its freight division, Air Canada Cargo, provides air freight lift and connectivity to hundreds of destinations across six continents using Air Canada's passenger and freighter aircraft. Air Canada's climate-related ambition includes a long-term aspirational goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

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