

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Better access. Better health.

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"We required prenatal care in Vancouver, a 14 hour drive away from our home, with monthly visits and eventually relocation at 36 weeks. We've flown through Hope Air multiple times and we're lucky to have our baby born with no complications!"

- Marcella, Fort St. John, BC

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



More and more, I am struck with how important "hope" is when families are faced with serious medical challenges. However, "hoping" that you can find a way without over-straining the family budget to make a long-distance trip, and pay for the additional costs like hotel accommodation, so that you can see a medical specialist should not be part of the Canadian healthcare experience. Unfortunately for many Canadians, that is exactly what they face on a continual basis. If it was not for Hope Air – there just would be less "hope" that medical access could happen in Canada.

Many of us might think, how is this possible in Canada? Canada is a country of vast distances and economic disparities and unfortunately, geography and income continue to affect the quality of care Canadians receive. For 20% of Canada's population who live in smaller and rural communities, travelling to medical care – particularly specialized medical care centralized in metropolitan cities – can come at an unaffordable cost of time and money. Hope Air ensures the accessibility of healthcare services for patients across Canada. Without this charity service, many patients say they would have to cancel or delay important treatment.

In 2018, through the generosity of our donors and the dedication and passion of our volunteers, Hope Air provided 11,509 travel arrangements. This amazing outcome makes a direct and important impact on so many families, and of that we are all very proud. We were able to give families "hope" by providing them with travel to their appointments, and connecting them to the vital healthcare they need. This Annual Report outlines our key accomplishments in 2018 and the many people who made this possible. Most importantly, the patients who relied on Hope Air's service in 2018 are highlighted. I urge you to take a moment and read their stories and see just how much your support, through Hope Air, gave them the vital access to medical care every Canadian deserves.

As we enter 2019, we have ambitious plans: to help more people, build new partnerships, increase awareness of our service, expand our digital presence, build new donor relationships, and investigate how we can assist families more with the critical barriers they face between home and hospital. Travel is only one of such barriers, and Hope Air is in a unique position to continue to innovate and build partnerships that will assist more families. We passionately believe in, and want to deliver on, our important mission of providing: Better access. Better health.

I thank each and every one of you who supported us in 2018, and I trust that we have earned your confidence to continue your support in 2019.

Onwards, and upwards,

Doug Kaller Horson

Doug Keller-Hobson Chief Executive Officer

# THE NEED

For 20% of Canada's population who live in smaller and rural communities, our universal healthcare system comes with a caveat; you may need to travel great distances to get there. For those struggling financially, a 16 hour car or bus ride may be the only viable way to reach medical care far from home.

It is well-documented that northern and rural people in Canada have higher healthcare needs but less access to care. The Canadian Medical Association has pointed out that a lack of access to specialists and other medically necessary services leads to delays in treatment and harm to health, including unnecessary pain and permanent disability. At Hope Air, we believe that every Canadian should have access to healthcare, and with the support of our generous philanthropic partners, we aim to reduce these barriers to access and reduce these harms to health for patients.

A unique and essential component of Canada's universal healthcare system, Hope Air is the only national charity providing free flights to low-income Canadians who must travel to medical care far from home, for all ages, and all medical needs. A free flight lets families focus on what is truly important – their health.

### Our Mission:

To provide Canadians in financial need with free travel to medical care far from home.



Hope Air patient Allie, aged 13, and mom Julie.

### OUR 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

**11,509 Travel Arrangements:** Hope Air provided 11,509 travel arrangements for patients across the country, of every age and medical need.

**Financial Health:** For every dollar spent by Hope Air this year 86¢ was used to fulfill our mission of providing Canadians with access to medical care, and only 14¢ was used on fundraising, administration and overhead expenses.

**Give Hope Wings – Americas Expedition:** To kick off the year, three phenomenal Hope Air supporters; Dave McElroy, Russ Airey and Harold Fast circumnavigated South America in their private planes to raise awareness and money for Hope Air. Their efforts allowed them to exceed their fundraising goal of \$500,000 which funded 2,000 flights for patients in need.

**MoneySense's Charity 100:** Hope Air was chosen by MoneySense magazine to be one of Canada's top-rated charities for 2019 and achieved a four out of four star rating from Charity Intelligence. With the goal of allowing Canadians to make more informed decisions about where they donate their money, MoneySense magazine rates a charity based on its financial efficiency and transparency. Using financial data gathered by Charity Intelligence, MoneySense's Charity 100 list is an elite group chosen from the 85,000 registered charities across the country.

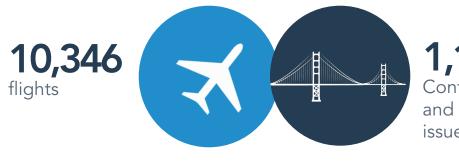
#### Hope Air Patron Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette

**Governor General of Canada:** Hope Air was granted viceregal patronage from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada. Viceregal patronage brings the support of the Governor General to Hope Air's mandate. Prior to taking on the role of Governor General Julie Payette was an astronaut, engineer, scientific broadcaster and corporate director.

**WestJet Thanksgiving Video**: This fall, a Hope Air patient was featured in an award-winning WestJet video that was used as part of their Thanksgiving campaign throughout the month of October. Leora's story, highlighted by WestJet Cares for Kids doubled the number of average daily users on our website, garnered 11,223 social media engagements and received 1,642,137 video views.

**ATAC's Outstanding Achievement Award:** Hope Air's CEO Doug Keller-Hobson, was the proud recipient of the Air Transport Association of Canada's (ATAC) Outstanding Achievement Award. This distinction is given to the ATAC member who, through participation in ATAC and other activities, has demonstrated a very high level of service and performance of benefit to aviation in Canada. As CEO since 2005, Doug's vision and leadership has helped Hope Air grow, and given families in small and rural areas across Canada access to the medical care they need.





**1,163** Confederation Bridge and ferry passes issued



### Without Hope Air,



of our patients would cancel or postone their medical appointment

34%

of our patients would travel by bus or car 4-12+ hours each way to reach their medical appointment

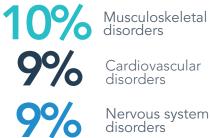


# OUR **IMPACT**



22% of all travel arrangements were for cancer patients

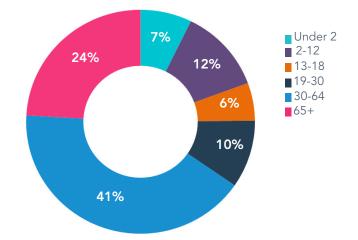
### Patients often travel for



Nervous system

**3,022,201** total video\* views growth across our social media channels

### **Patient Age Groups**



"Without Hope Air I would never have been able to make it to Vancouver and back so many times to see my team of specialists and my surgeon. I wouldn't have been able to get the life changing surgery that has given me my life back. As a low-income mom of 3 it's left me absolutely speechless that I've had such amazing help through Hope Air." - Trish, Kelowna, BC

\*Videos consist of Sun Life Financial's "Why Fly", "WestJet Thanks: Giving hope" and videos from Hope Air's Northern Ontario campaign.

# OUR PATIENTS

### Dawn Kelowna, BC

When Heather, a mother of four, took her six-month-old daughter, Dawn, to get her immunizations, she was shocked to find out her baby had been losing weight. After months of appointments, Dawn was diagnosed with benign congenital hypotonia, a neuromuscular disorder where the amount of tension or resistance to stretch in a muscle is very low.

In order to receive treatment, Heather and Dawn had to travel to BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver, a minimum four-hour drive each way. Fortunately, their physiotherapist told Heather about Hope Air.

"Hope Air was a breath of fresh air in the midst of a really tough time for our family," says Heather.



### Jamie Clarenville, NL

Jamie has been battling cystic fibrosis (CF) most of his life. A double lung transplant was the only way Jamie could live a healthy life. Jamie was unsure how he was going to travel to Toronto for the assessment.

A friend told him about Hope Air, and we were able to help Jamie travel to Toronto. Jamie was approved and put on the transplant list.

"I just wouldn't be alive if it had not been for Hope Air. Simple as that," says Jamie. Jamie received the double transplant and is now adjusting to a CF-free life.

### Morgan Port Hardy, BC

When Morgan was dignosed with advanced melanoma, she was told she would have to travel to Vancouver immediately for surgery.

Travelling would be a challenge for Morgan, who had a diagnosis of progressive multiple sclerosis (MS). She was ready to give up on treatment when she found Hope Air. The doctors successfully removed the cancer, but she still needed to return to Vancouver for follow-up tests.

"I just knew Hope Air would have my back. There's a feeling of ease. Hope Air was becoming family," says Morgan.





# OUR PATIENTS

### Rob Timmins, ON

Rob, a proud father of five, has always loved living in the great outdoors but after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, he realized how living 700km from Toronto could make life more difficult. His treatment required weekly appointments in Toronto.

"I worried if we could afford it, whether the car travel would be hard on my health and recovery, whether we would have to sell our house and move," says Rob.

Thanks to Hope Air, Rob was able to access the medical care he needed, and he and his family are able to continue to live in a place they love.

### Tammy St. John's, NL

Tammy left work for what she assumed would be a 15 minute appointment, she did not return to her desk until eight months later.

Tammy was diagnosed with ocular melanoma, a rare form of eye cancer with a possibility of spreading to her liver, lungs and brain. Since the treatment she needed was not available at home, she had to travel to Toronto or have the eye removed.

Tammy's doctor suggested she call Hope Air. "Hope Air has taken away so much of the financial burden from my family and I," says Tammy. These days, Tammy still travels with Hope Air for checkups, but the cancer has not spread.





### Rowan Kelowna, BC

When Katie's son, Rowan, had a swollen knee she could tell it was something serious. When the swelling didn't decrease, and Rowan was experiencing more pain, Rowan was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, a chronic disorder where Rowan's immune system attacks cells and tissues in his joints. This meant Rowan and Katie had to make frequent trips to BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

Katie found out about Hope Air through her daycare and thought it was too good to be true. "We couldn't imagine not having Hope Air," says Katie. "It's honestly just been amazing."



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

Hope Air couldn't fulfill our mission of helping Canadians access medical care without the passion and dedication of our volunteers. Picking up the phone to talk to patients in their time of need, writing thank you notes to our generous donors or helping to raise vital funds for patient travel, our volunteers are the driving force of our organization.

The varied talents of our volunteers, whether they are helping patients, researching donors, writing patient stories or providing leadership and guidance on our board of directors, are vital to ensuring there is a lifeline for Canadians who need access to medical care far from home. In 2018, 161 Hope Air volunteers gave 5,062 hours to patients in need of medical care far from home.

Hope Air volunteers make an enormous difference in the lives of patients every day.

"Honestly there is so much that I have enjoyed about my time spent here, including everything from the team I work with to the gratitude you hear from clients by giving them their flight details. However, what I enjoy most about volunteering here is the knowledge that everything we do, even if it's just calling a doctor to confirm an appointment, has a direct impact on a person's life."

- Andrew, client care volunteer



Long-serving Hope Air volunteers at the annual Summer Social.



Volunteer Pilot Jay Woo flying a patient and her escort to medical care.

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# OUR EVENTS

Hope Air is honoured to receive funds raised from a variety of events throughout the year and we're thankful for everyone who has donated or attended. Here are a few examples:

#### The UBC Run for Rural Medicine

The annual Run for Rural Medicine is a fundraiser organized for Hope Air by students from UBC's Faculty of Medicine. In 2018 our CEO Doug Keller-Hobson participated in the Vancouver run that raised more than \$13,000 for Hope Air.

#### CBAA 2018 Hope Air Charity Golf Tournament

This year's Canadian Business Aviation Association Annual Convention and Exhibition in Waterloo, kicked-off with the Hope Air Charity Golf Tournament, that raised \$26,177 to help Hope Air fulfill its mission of helping Canadians access medical care.

#### NAV CANADA Golf Tournaments

In 2018 three NAV CANADA golf tournaments raised funds for Hope Air; the Gander FIR Charity Golf Tournament, the Toronto Air Traffic Control (ATC) Charity Golf Tournament and the Montreal FIR Charity Golf Tournament. NAV CANADA also generously matched all funds raised from these events. The combined result was more than \$250,000.

#### 10th Annual CAA Golf Tournament

For the first time Hope Air was the proud recipient of proceeds from CAA Club Group's Charity Golf Tournament. The event raised a record \$172,683 for Hope Air.

#### 3rd Annual Ham, Eggs & Hope

Former board Chair Jim Burton hosted the 3rd annual breakfast event in St. John's, NL with some generous supporters and The Honourable Dwight Ball, M.H.A. Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.

#### High Hopes for Hope Air

Featuring Rob, a former patient who has flown with Hope Air, and co-hosted by BMO Vice Chair Brian Tobin and Goldcorp Inc. Executive Vice President and CFO Jason Attew, guests were welcomed to BMO's head office in Toronto's financial district. The successful event raised the funds to provide 1,388 medical flights and our generous hosts committed to making this event an annual one.

## THE AWARDS

### The Spirit of Hope Awards

The 2018 Spirit of Hope Awards went to exceptional volunteers who demonstrated remarkable dedication to our cause, and who embodied the spirit of volunteerism upon which Hope Air was founded.

Distinguished Volunteer of the Year, **Yury Jakymec**, is a familiar sight at the Hope Air office.

Like many of our volunteers, he is multi-talented; a polyglot, blogger and foodie, he always has a fascinating story to share. He began volunteering not long after emigrating from Venezuela in 2013 and since then has donated over 600 hours to our organization. He has helped the development team with everything from outreach and data management to researching funding grants.

Distinguished Volunteer Pilot of the Year, Marc Bourdon, has been volunteering with Hope Air since August 2013.

A bilingual pilot, Marc has flown patients in both Ontario and Quebec. His plane allows him to fly in challenging weather conditions which can ensure that patients get to their appointments on time, despite the weather. He goes above and beyond to make sure patients are at ease and can easily get to their appointments.



Left to Right: CEO Doug Keller-Hobson, Yury Jakymec, Meredith Lilly, Senior Manager, Corporate Partnerships and Chair of the Board of Directors, Dave Garner



Volunteer Pilot Marc Bourdon in front of his plane.

### THE AWARDS

### Hope Air Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year Award

Each year Hope Air gives out the Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year award to an individual or corporation who has shown exemplary commitment by partnering with Hope Air to ensure equal access to medical care for patients in need across the country. It celebrates their philanthropic leadership, which plays a key role in bridging the gap between home and life-saving care for so many Canadians.

One of this year's recipients is Harbour Air Seaplanes. Harbour Air Seaplanes is North America's largest seaplane airline and a long-time partner. They have generously provided free flights to Hope Air to enable patients to travel for vital medical appointments far from their home communities. In fact, 100 per cent of the flights Hope Air patients have flown on Harbour Air since 2007 have been donated. They have been a great champion for Hope Air's cause and helped many people living in BC. Harbour Air Seaplanes received the honour at the annual Air Transportation Association of Canada conference.

Enterprise Holdings was also the recipient of a Hope Air Philanthropist of the Year award in 2018. This company has made a generous and significant contribution to our charity work. Over the past six years they have donated funding to provide over 100 Hope Air flights. Enterprise Holdings received the honour at the annual Canadian Business Aviation Association convention.



Eric Scott, VP Flight Operations & Safety at Harbour Air Seaplanes accepting the award from Meredith Lilly, Senior Manager, Corporate Partnerships at Hope Air.



Hope Air CEO, Doug Keller-Hobson and CBAA President Rudy Toering, presenting the award to Mike Seip, Business Rental Sales Director and Mark Couto, Business Rental Sales Executive, both of Enterprise Holdings.

# OUR AIRLINE PARTNERS

Each day, Canadians must fly long distances to access the life-saving treatment they need. Our trusted airline partners understand that a free flight lets families focus on what's truly important - their health.

Hope Air is grateful for the many airlines who demonstrate their commitment to providing access to medical care through their generous donations and the compassion shown to the patients we assist.



### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Hope Air is committed to accuracy and transparency in reporting our financial information. Donations received by Hope Air are used to fund our charitable programs, fundraising and administration. Hope Air takes care to devote its funds to programming for the direct benefit of our clients. Hope Air's audited financial statements and previous annual reports are available on our website.



#### 2018 SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURES

REVENUES				
	 Total	% of Total	Cash	In-Kind
Provincial Governments	\$ 1,944,276	39%	\$ 1,944,276	\$ -
Corporations	\$ 1,649,315	33%	\$ 707,722	\$ 941,593
Individuals	\$ 667,081	13%	\$ 254,199	\$ 412,882
Special Events	\$ 458,592	9%	\$ 440,081	\$ 18,511
Foundations	\$ 293,170	6%	\$ 293,170	\$ -
Other	\$ 2,184	-	\$ 1,184	\$ 1,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 5,014,618	100%	\$ 3,640,632	\$ 1,373,986

#### **EXPENDITURES**

EXTENDITORES	Total	% of Total
Charitable Programs	\$ 4,172,985	86%
Fundraising	\$ 395,602	8%
Administration & Overhead	\$ 275,768	6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 4,844,355	100%
NET SURPLUS	\$ 170,263	

# OUR SUPPORTERS

In 2018, individuals and organizations came together to support Hope Air's mission. We are so grateful to each and every donor for providing equal access to healthcare for thousands of Canadians in need.

#### Captain's Circle (\$100,000+)

CAA Club Group CAA Club Group Golf Tournament High Hopes for Hope Air NAV CANADA Provincial Health Services Authority (British Columbia) Sun Life Financial

#### First Officer's Circle (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

BMO Financial Group Columbia Basin Trust Give Hope Wings - Americas Expedition Medtronic Foundation Pfizer Canada ULC Province of Prince Edward Island RBC Rewards ® Toronto Air Traffic Control (ATC) Charity Golf Tournament

#### Flight Crew (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA) Golf Tournament and Convention CURE Foundation Goldcorp Inc. J.P. Bickell Foundation Montreal FIR Charity Golf Tournament The Arthur J.E. Child Foundation The Bedolfe Foundation The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation The Windsor Foundation

#### Control Tower (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

3rd Annual Ham, Eggs & HOPE Breakfast (St. John's)

Central Okanagan Foundation

Gander FIR Charity Golf Tournament Gordon Roberts Jay Forbes Langley Sportsplex LivaNova CARES Mackenzie Investments Charitable Foundation Marc Bourdon Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. Patrick Remy Peter Scott Province of Alberta Province of Nova Scotia Province of Saskatchewan Sutherland Foundation Inc. The Colin & Lois Pritchard Foundation The McCain Foundation The Prince George Airport Authority's 16th Annual Charity Golf Tournament UBC Run for Rural Medicine Unity For Autism YVR For Kids Take Off (\$5,000 - \$9,999) Access Communications Children's Fund Allard Foundation Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP CAE Inc. Calgary Airport Authority

Coastal Gaslink Pipeline Ltd. David and Pat Garner Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP Deloitte Canada Dr. Lou and Mae Lukenda Charitable Foundation

ECN Capital Corp. Emera Newfoundland and Labrador Ernst & Young LLP

Federated Co-operatives Limited First Choice Haircutters Franchisee in the Thompson Okanagan Floyd Hill Friends of Hope Air in Quesnel Gerd and Dorothy Wengler Hylcan Foundation IAMGOLD Corporation Jean Messier Jim and Dera Burton Jody Peck John Andrew Leonce Arsenault LimoLink Magris Resources Marret Asset Management Inc. Munich Reinsurance Company of Canada Norton Rose Fulbright Park Property Management Inc. Paul Clark Phil Policelli SWIFT Conference The Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation The Cadillac Fairview Corp. Ltd. The John Carl MacIsaac Foundation The John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation The R.J. Nelson Family Foundation The Whitearn Foundation TransCanada PipeLines Limited

#### Ground Crew (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Adam Keller Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) AirSprint Inc. Alec Zimmerman Allan Anderson Allen Russell Andrew Knight

# OUR SUPPORTERS

Anna Pangrazzi Atlantic Region Aircraft Maintenance Conference Auriol Marasco Battlefield Equipment Rentals Braden Messenger Brian and Jodean Tobin **Brian Huston** Browning Harvey Ltd. Burlington Airpark BBQ Canyon Lumber Company Charlottetown Airport Authority Cheryl Marek Collombin Family Fund at the Toronto Foundation Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation Corey Parsons CUPE Local 4653 Curtis Ludwig Cyril Gibb Derek Ballard Donald McKay Donna and Bruce Hill Doug and Kathleen Keller-Hobson Doug MacMillan Douglas Harris Dusty Acres Ltd. Dynacare Enterprise Holdings Foundation Everest Realty Advisors Ltd. Fortis Inc. Fredericton Community Foundation Gordon Roberts Grant Pickess Greater Moncton International Airport Authority Inc. Guy Lambert Gwyneth Pryse-Phillips Helijet Henry Ilg Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union Local 779 Innotech - Execaire IODE Diamond Jubilee Chapter -Penticton Jabra James Erskine

James Lockyear James Molloy Jay Woo Jenny Sun John Horton John Mullally Joseph Ennett Judith Gage Karen Martin Katherine Pierzchala Keith and Glenda Wellon Lions Club (Kelowna Rutland BC) Lohn Foundation Lyn Medler Maarten Noort MacMurray Foundation Inc. Marcel Martineau Margaret Molloy Medcan Montair Aviation Newfoundland Power Paul Mitchell Penney Group Inc. Prince George Road Runners Province of Manitoba Province of Newfoundland and Labrador Quesnel Lions Club **RBC** Foundation **RE/MAX Realty Specialists Limited River Gambler Robert Hunter** Robert Rosebrugh Rotary Club of North Scarborough Rotary Club of Quesnel S. M. Blair Family Foundation Salvation Army Sandman Hotel Vancouver Airport Sandra Heath Saskatoon International Airport Sault Ste. Marie Airport Golf Tournament Scott and Joanne Macpherson Sheila Miller Simon Steunenberg Skyservice Business Aviation Inc.

Steven Williams Steven Wills Sunset Ranch Ladies Club 2 Ball Tournament (Kelowna) Swan City Rotary Club of Grande Prairie Tahir Ayub Take Flight for Hope Air (New Brunswick) The Anglican Foundation of Canada The BLG Foundation The Greygates Foundation The Henry White Kinnear Foundation The Illahie Foundation The John and Judy Bragg Family Foundation The Parish of St. Philip's, Vancouver The Wilf and Jean Bell Foundation Vincent Mercier Wavne Harvev White Mud Farms I td. William McAllister Zeller Family Foundation

# GOVERNANCE

#### **Board of Directors** (as at Dec 31, 2018)

CHAIR DAVID GARNER The Blue Mountains, ON President and CEO, Green Shield Canada (Retired)

SECRETARY AURIOL MARASCO Toronto, ON Lawyer, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

SAM BARONE Ottawa, ON Principal, Barone Advisory Services

JODY PECK Toronto, ON Vice President, Human Resources, PepsiCo **Beverages** Canada

**VICE CHAIR GERD WENGLER** Markham, ON President, Park Property Management Inc.

ALEC ZIMMERMAN Oakville, ON Partner, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

SANDRA HEATH Vancouver, BC Senior Consultant, HTD Inc.

TREASURER ANDREA YANDRESKI Toronto, ON Senior Vice President, McKinsey & Company

TAHIR AYUB Vancouver, BC Managing Partner, Markets & Industries, PwC Canada

JOHN MULLALLY Toronto, ON Director of Government Relations & Energy, Goldcorp Inc.

**HEATHER TOBIN** Toronto, ON Principal, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board

> ANNA PANGRAZZI Toronto, ON Founder and President, Apex Aircraft Sales Ltd.

**GWYNETH PRYSE-PHILLIPS** Toronto, ON Associate Portfolio Manager & Investment Advisor, Hayhoe Pryse-Phillips Group

Our board of directors is comprised of committed volunteers who ensure that the organization's operational activities are based in tactical decision-making for the maintenance and progress of Hope Air's mission. Each director is a member of at least one board committee. The board committees during 2018 were: Audit & Finance Committee (Chair - Andrea Yandreski), Governance & Nominating Committee (Chair -Alec Zimmerman), and Fundraising Committee (Interim Chair - John Mullally).

#### **British Columbia** Advisory Council

Tahir Ayub **Rob Barlow** Sam Barone Archie Campbell Rob Philipp

Mark Duncan Sandra Heath Dave McElroy

#### Newfoundland and Labrador Advisory Council

Jim Burton **Rex Ledrew** Ches Crosbie Farl Ludlow Bob Farrell Andrea Stack

## A FINAL WORD OF HOPE



A diagnosis of a brain tumour is difficult enough. Imagine what a parent feels when it is diagnosed in their 5-year-old girl. This was the case for Julie and her husband Steven, who were strongly advised that their daughter, Allie, report to SickKids within 24 hours.

For the family living in New Liskeard, a community of 4,000 people located two hours north of North Bay, travel to Toronto wasn't easy. "We love our community. Everyone here is so great," says Julie. "It is difficult, however, to be so far away from the specialized health care that Allie so desperately needed."

After nine long days in hospital, the family was told that Allie's brain tumour would require weekly chemotherapy treatments in Toronto.

Allie receiving treatment

Travel was tough at first; weekly visits included over nine hours of bus travel, only to arrive with Allie uncomfortable and in some distress.

Weekly air travel was out of financial reach for this family; they knew it would be the preferred mode of travel but were uncertain they could afford it until they heard about Hope Air. "Submitting an application was easy and immediately changed our lives for the better." says Julie.

"I began to look forward to travelling to Toronto," says Allie, who was excited to fly to her weekly treatments.

Allie traveled on traditional airlines at first, but also flew with some volunteer pilots. "I really got to know the pilots well and we didn't have to travel to Timmins to catch the plane," says Allie. Allie is now 13 years-old and treats life just like any other girl her age. "I still have the tumour but it isn't affecting me right now. I probably will always have to live with it. I hope that someday I won't have to have any treatments." she says, "But I will miss my nurse in Sudbury. We've gotten really close."

The family is thankful they learned about Hope Air's services and want to spread the word to those who are in a similar situation. In the meantime, Allie is getting on with school, playing with her cats on the family farm. As she dreams of the future she says, "I think I could grow up to be a pilot."



We help patients of any age and with any medical need access care across Canada. We are proud of the work we do to lift the burden of travel from families in financial need who must access medical care far from home.

Thank you to our supporters for your help to achieve our mission.

Hope Air patient Rob from Timmins, ON



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