And just like that, the holidays and year end are upon us. This last quarter of 2018 we were pleased to launch our membership drive after three years of waiving dues as we raised awareness about the organization. Read on to hear about the events we hosted at the Halifax International Airport, at Cougar Helicopters, and as part of DEFSEC. And please consider becoming a member!

Wishing you and yours a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2019.

Eva Martinez, Vice-President WIA-Canada

**Objectives of WIA-Canada**

**Women in Aerospace Canada** (WIA-Canada) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to expanding women's opportunities for leadership and professional development as well as increasing their visibility in the aerospace community by creating a professional network in Canada and across the globe. The objectives of WIA-Canada are to:

- Identify, foster and promote the interests and professional development of women working in the aerospace industry and other related sectors.

- To be a networking platform for women and men in the aerospace industry and other sector areas related to aerospace.

- Advance aerospace education for women in schools, colleges, and universities.

- Develop alliances with aerospace associations (provincially, federally and internationally) and other relevant associations across Canada and globally.

**Recent Events**

**Joyce Carter, President & CEO Halifax International Airport - NS**

On Oct 11, we enjoyed Lunch with Joyce Carter, President and CEO of the Halifax International Airport Authority and twice named Atlantic Business Magazine’s Top 50 CEOs. Joyce described her own professional journey, sharing her top tips for success. It was evident that Joyce is not only well deserving as a Top Finalist for the Halifax Chamber of Commerce Business Awards as Business Leader of the Year, but that the staff at the airport have tremendous admiration and respect for her leadership and ability to influence economic growth while creating a positive work environment.

**Cougar Helicopters Lunch and Tour – NL**

On Oct 24, WIA-Canada and Cougar Helicopters cohosted a Lunch and Tour at Cougar’s St. John’s, NL facility featuring a keynote presentation by Audrey Brady, VP of Commercial Systems and Services at Sikorsky. Look out for more events in Newfoundland in 2019!

**Volunteers Wine & Cheese**

On Dec 12, a handful of volunteers got together to brainstorm ideas for events for 2019 over wine & cheese.

The success of our organization and the quality of the events and programs offered are hugely dependent upon the participation of volunteers.
To volunteer or to share your ideas for events and venues, please contact Eva Martinez at atlantic@wia-canada.org

**Upcoming Events**

**Start Prioritizing You! – 24 Jan 2019**

What better way to kick off 2019 than with a workshop! *Start Prioritizing You – The Importance of Self-Care and Creativity* is designed to give us the necessary tools to find calm and clarity, keep stress at bay, and bring more confidence to your life. It’s a new year…and a new you! The workshop will be hosted by Melissa Lloyd’s Doodle Lovely and will inspire you to think differently about how you approach your everyday life. Save the Date – Thu 24 Jan 2019…and stay tuned for details!

**Women of Aviation Weekly 2019**

In conjunction with Women of Aviation Week (March 4-10, 2019), we will be hosting a Women in Aerospace Canada networking event in Moncton, NB March 2019.

Moncton Flight College will open its doors to all women in local communities to visit MFC, tour the facilities, hangars, aircraft, simulators, etc. Half price introductory flights will also be available. Stay tuned for details!

**Other News**

**Atlantic Connections Conference 2019**

The 2019 Atlantic ConnectTions Conference will be taking place May 30-31, 2019 at the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering Building at UPEI, Charlottetown.

ACT provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations from Atlantic Canada to work together to tackle the advancement and retention of women and gender minorities in Science, Engineering, Technology and Trades (SETT) workforce within industry and academia. The theme of this year’s conference is Sustaining Women in SETT. For more details go to www.atlanticconnections.ca.

**Kind Kneads**

*Kind Kneads* is an on-site chair massage social enterprise, which uses partial proceeds to spread local acts of kindness in the region. Located on the main floor of the Halifax airport, across from the food court, they have started offering chair massages. They are there Fridays and Saturdays 11am-9pm and Sundays to Thursdays 11am-5pm with holiday closures Dec 24-27 and Jan 1. Check them out! They are selling gift cards at the airport and are available to provide on-site massages at your place of work and other special events too.

**Welcoming Men**

Given the demographics in the aerospace field, WIA-Canada’s doors are open to men as well as women. Since women do not exclusively network amongst themselves and many of us have benefited from male mentors or advocates who have assisted our career development, WIA-Canada recognizes the importance of including these allies in furthering the goals of our organization. Men can be equally devoted to the advancement of women in aerospace so it is important that the organization welcome both genders in support of the cause.

**Stay Connected**

**Is WIA-Canada for You? Consider a Membership!**

Members of WIA-Canada represent all levels of employment in aerospace – from entry level to senior executives, from administrative to technical to engineering roles and everything in between. If you are a woman working in the aerospace industry, WIA-Canada is definitely for you! As a not-for-profit organization, Women in Aerospace Canada uses membership fees as predictable and ongoing funding of our operational expenses.

We have kicked off our 2019 Membership Drive. More members means more diversity, more benefits, and better programming…so sign up now! Click [here](http://www.atlanticconnections.ca) to join!

Benefits of memberships include:

- **Front of Line** – members will receive exclusive first round early access to tickets before non-members so you can avoid the disappointment of a sold out event when tickets go public!
- **Event Discounts** – members will benefit from lower pricing for their tickets compared to full-price for non-members.
- **Exclusive Events** – participate in special member-only events.
- **Newsletter** – free announcements and advertising in the Quarterly Newsletter.

**Justifying Your Participation (with the Boss)**

Do you find it difficult to get your manager’s approval to attend a Women in Aerospace Canada event? Does the idea of even asking seem daunting? Ever-tightening budgets, requesting time off during business hours, even the optics that our events are just social gatherings and not intended for professional development – just some of the reasons you’re concerned about? One of the best ways to get approval to attend an event is to link your organization’s goals with the experience that the event will provide.

If you need help soliciting your boss’ authorization and/or financial support to attend – either by email or the next time you’re chatting with your manager at the water cooler – contact Eva at atlantic@wia-canada.org for help. Perhaps you can even consider inviting them along so they can gain a better understanding of our organization, mission, and objectives. We don’t want anyone missing out!

**Check out our Website – www.wia-canada.org**

To join our email list, send an e-mail to leigh.kras@wia-canada.org!