

A Quarterly Communiqué from Women in Aerospace Canada

It has been said that connection is an essential element in getting us through tough times. And this pandemic has definitely introduced many challenges. “We’re all in this together” simply put, could not be truer. As much as possible, Women in Aerospace Canada has made every effort to continue supporting our community with good quality programming. Not being able to socialize or network in person has felt very isolating so we have focused on different ways to stay connected.

If anything, we have been able to use technology to bridge geographical divides. We have been able to come together on a more global scale with an expansive reach. In our last newsletter we indicated we were exploring how to leverage video conferencing platforms for our events and we certainly made good on that commitment. In this quarterly newsletter you’ll read all about what we’ve been up to.

The experts are telling us that aviation and aerospace will be in a slump for the foreseeable future. Tapping into our resilience will help us turn these challenges into opportunities. And leaning on the robust network that Women in Aerospace Canada has created will enhance our ability to recover quickly from difficult times.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our events this quarter! Stay healthy and strong!

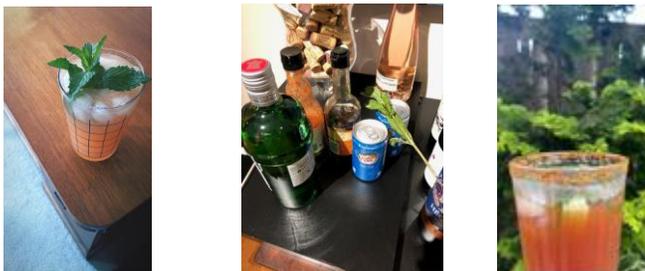
Eva Martinez, Vice-President WIA-Canada

Recent Events

Summer Social with Mixologist Tom Weihmayr

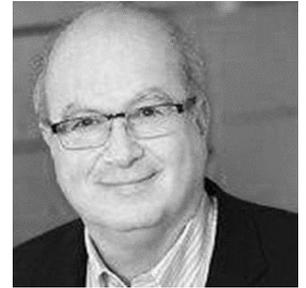
We kicked off the summer with a virtual cocktail social featuring professional bartender and certified mixologist Tom Weihmayr.

Bringing people together using the magic of Zoom, Tom demonstrated how to make two spectacular summer cocktails – the Classic Paloma and a Gin Caesar – and both were spectacular! Stay tuned for details about a virtual Christmas holiday social!



Career Networking with Barry Wohl

On Jul 30, we hosted a virtual career networking event with Barry Wohl, President of [The Wohl Group](#). A strategic recruiting specialist, Barry was able to inform participants on the current state of aerospace and the impact on today’s job market. Whether looking for new career opportunities or looking to attract fresh talent, Barry’s tips on how to network in a virtual environment were invaluable.



Leading Ladies of Aerospace



The First Annual Leading Ladies of Aerospace Virtual Summit was a HUGE success! With over 350 participants from around the world with a lineup of 20 incredible and inspirational speakers, the event was organized to raise funds to help those whose employment was affected by COVID-19. And we all know just what a hit aerospace and aviation have taken.

Besides the charitable aspects of the event, the virtual summit was an opportunity to connect women of aerospace from around the world to promote professional and personal strategies for enhancing women’s presence in the industry. The event served to inspire women working in the aerospace industry to reach their personal best and be leaders within their companies, by providing them with tools and strategies for career advancement, access to role models, and a variety of perspectives of the journey they can take. Join/follow the [Leading Ladies of Aerospace LinkedIn Group](#) to network and share ideas.

Roundtable Discussion with Alice Bromage

With sponsorship from ACADA, we were delighted to host an incredible roundtable discussion with leadership expert and former UK Army Officer Alice Bromage. Similar to a book club discussion, the roundtable focused on one of Alice’s recent and thought-provoking articles [On the Intersection of Gender, Leadership and Innovation in Defence](#). Following a presentation on the importance of Resilient Leadership, the participants split into breakout rooms to discuss such issues as how gender shows up in leaders.





As part of ADS Expo Atlantic, Women in Aerospace Canada and Women in Defence and Security (WiDS) partnered to host a Virtual Speed Mentoring event. With sponsorship from ACADA and SERCO (who were recently awarded the ACADA Industry Excellence Award for Gender and Diversity), we had over 35 exceptional leaders from across the aerospace and defence sector provide career advice in 15-minute bursts to over 70 mentees at varying stages of their professions. Using Zoom breakout rooms, each round of speed mentoring yielded valuable learning. Between each round, the participants benefited from spotlight presentations by Kelly Hancock (GD-LS), Natasha McLean (SERCO NA), Colonel Jamie Spieser-Blanchet (RCAF) and Jody Fancey (ACADA).

During these challenging times, having access to mentors, even if only virtually, can be a game changer; and we're already looking forward to our next speed mentoring event.



Dames on the Deck and Ladies Who Hike



Although we haven't been able to organize in person events, our members have been finding unique ways to get together including drinks on the deck and monthly hikes.



Upcoming Events

Advancing Women in Aerospace – Leadership Training

Earlier this year, the inaugural cohort of the Advancing Women in Aerospace Leadership Program successfully graduated! The program – comprised of four 2-hour modules – was specifically designed to empower women and prepare them to take on the next phase of their career, while also growing and strengthening their professional network by looking into concepts such as overcoming the imposter syndrome, projecting confidence, and dealing with challenging situations.

Women in Aerospace Canada will be soliciting a Canada Ontario Job Grant (COJG) and a Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive (WIPSI) to provide this training on a broader scale. To learn more about this effort, contact atlantic@wia-canada.org

Virtual Events

We continue to explore how we can use Zoom video conferencing to facilitate virtual events. Keep an eye out for details about professional development (including leadership and strengths assessments) and a virtual cooking event.

Do you have any ideas? Email Eva at atlantic@wia-canada.org.

Stay Connected

Are you a WIA-Canada Membership?

Members of WIA-Canada – due to the impact that COVID has had on our ability to provide quality programming, we have put a freeze on annual memberships and the time lost will be added to extend the expiration date of your membership. This extension will also be applied to employees of our Founding Corporate Members – Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems and Stelia Aerospace. We can't wait to see you again!

In the meantime, if anyone wishes to purchase a membership, please click [here](#) for details on how to join!

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

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