





## A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to *The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too!* Aviation, Aerospace, Marine and Defence Outreach Event here in beautiful Abbotsford.

Women should never feel as though certain careers are beyond their reach, and events like this are crucial in defeating the misconception that some industries are exclusive to men. Science, technology, engineering and math, commonly referred to as STEM fields, provide numerous career opportunities for men and women, alike, and I would like to commend the Achieve Anything Foundation for their dedication to ensuring that young women know that they truly can achieve anything. Holding this event during the week of International Women's Day will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of pilots, engineers and leaders in their field.

I would like to thank the organizers for their time and hard work putting together these events year after year – your tireless efforts ensure that the week is an educational and memorable experience for all.

I wish you all the best for an enjoyable event. Together we can continue moving British Columbia forward as we work towards equal opportunities for all.



HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN  
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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THANK YOU 2018 PARTNERS & FRIENDS

PLATINUM PARTNER:



GOLD PARTNERS:



SILVER PARTNERS:



Transport Canada

Transports Canada



BRONZE PARTNERS:



FRIENDS:

Thank You! A special thank you to the hundreds of dedicated male & female volunteers, pilots, photographers and videographers essential to our success. We appreciate your support!

Friends & Community Contributions: A&D Music; Abbotsford Entertainment Centre; Abbotsford District School Board; Abbotsford International Airshow Society; Canadian Armed Forces; Canadian Linen; Challenger Motor Freight; City of Abbotsford; Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club; Corvus Aviation Services Inc.; DBI Technologies; First Class Waste Disposal; Gidney Signs; Helijet International; International Movie Services Ltd.; International Pacific Sales; J&R Hall Transport; Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations; Ocean Trailer; Pratt & Whitney Canada; Quiring Towing & Recovery; Radio Bula Masti; Royal Canadian Legion, Abbotsford; Royal Canadian Navy Naden Band; Tourism Abbotsford; Triple Eight Transport; The Museum of the Armed Forces, Aldergrove; Vancouver Police Pipe Band and others.

Agencies: Cadets Canada; Canadian Army; Canadian Coast Guard; Civil Air Search & Rescue Association; Royal Canadian Air Force; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Royal Canadian Navy; United States Air Force.





## SUMMARY REPORT 2018

*From shop floor to top floor... we're inspiring female future leaders!*

### ABOUT THE EVENT

**The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too!** annual events are the cornerstone of a gender diversity outreach initiative founded by BC pilot, Kirsten Brazier in 2012. What began as an aviation event in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories has since evolved into the world's largest outreach event of its kind in Aviation, Aerospace, Marine and Defence. The event has been proudly hosted by the Abbotsford International Airport in British Columbia, Canada since 2015.

Held annually during the week of International Women's Day, our unique, hands-on outreach events have directly touched the lives of over 67,300 participants and 9,172 girls and women of all ages have experienced the magic of first flight in a small aircraft. Our events, including the introductory flights, are always free to ensure there are no barriers to participation. This is thanks to the generous support of agency, industry, education and community partners working together to improve gender and cultural diversity in high tech fields.

Out of 25,482 professional pilots in Canada, only 6% of them are women. Over the past few years the number of Canadian women licensed as aircraft engineers declined from 2.7% to 2.3%. Women account for only 4% of the technical trades and less than 3% of the top command positions in the Canadian Forces.

It would be tempting to conclude that women are either uninterested or unwelcome in these fields. Instead, studies have shown that a common perception persists that Aviation, Aerospace, Marine and Defence are industries reserved for men. From an early age, males and females alike are affected by this perception message, which is continually reinforced by observation (lack of change), media, social media and advertising. The low numbers also mean that most women have no direct family or peer connection to our target industries. Therefore, it is unreasonable to expect gender and cultural diversity to resolve naturally in these fields.

**The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too!** free outreach events and other initiatives aim to change this perception and awaken new interests by providing girls and women of all ages with fun, interactive, and hands-on introductions into STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) based fields.

Our events are about education and inclusion as much as they are about inspiring our missing demographic. We encourage families and friends to attend and support the daughters of the community and our future leaders. All participants are invited to meet civilian and non-civilian VIPs, explore an impressive variety of aircraft, equipment and tactical displays; and engage in the many hands-on learning activities in Aviation, Aerospace, Marine and Defence.

We welcome all ages at our annual events. In many cultures elders are the leaders within the community. Therefore we encourage elders to be a part of the discovery experience so they will share this incredible experience with other women in their community. We encourage the guardians and other individuals from the girls' support network to take part in the discovery experience as they are an integral part in encouraging the inspired women and girls as they progress in their chosen fields. Lastly, but no less important: it is never too late to be inspired and embrace new challenges.

***Whether you are a participant, financial partner or community volunteer, we thank you for your support!***

## PRESS

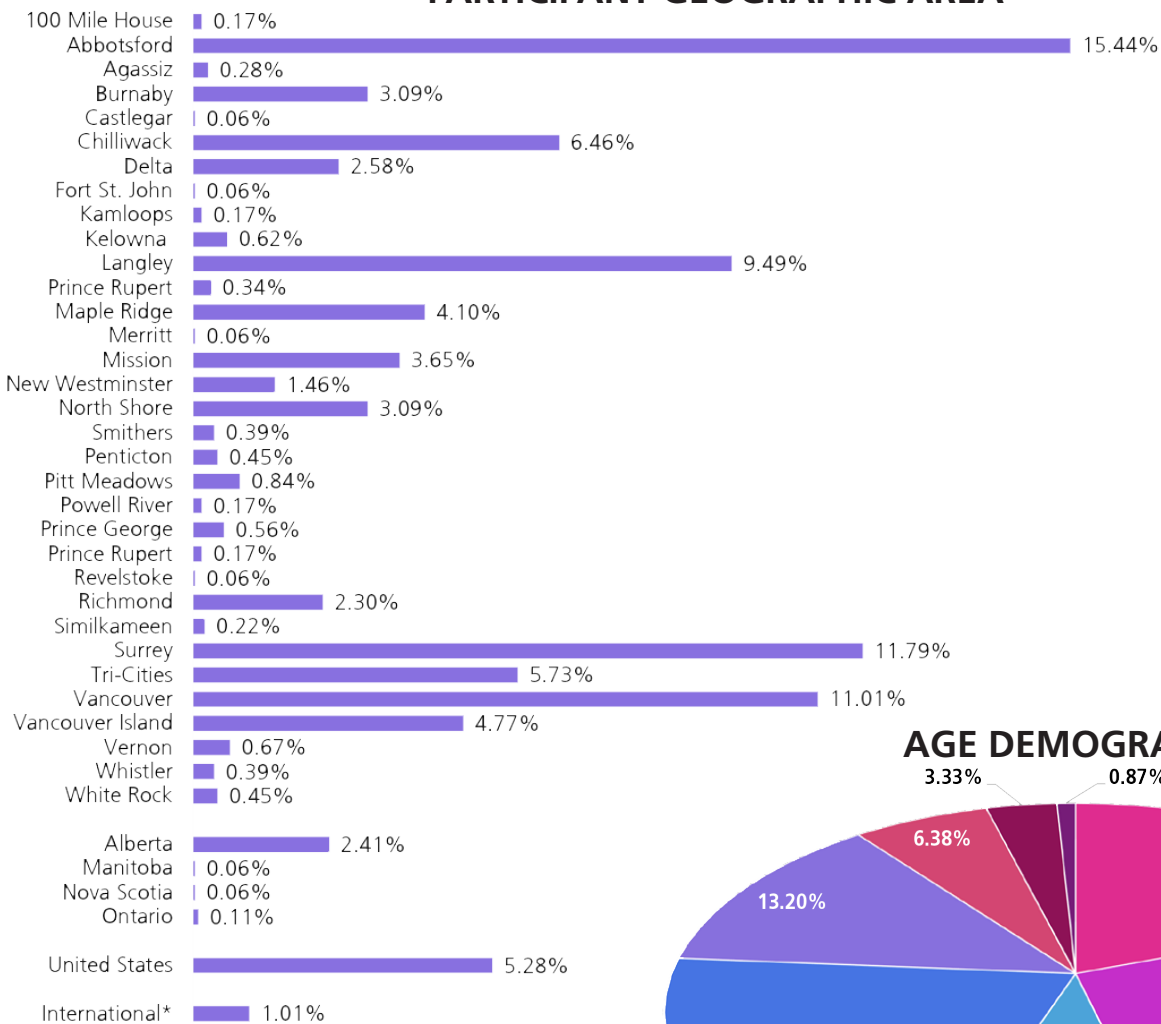
Our events are well covered by local, national and international print, radio and TV media (pre, during and post events). Regular press releases are published with event and participant highlights and copied to all media agencies.



## PARTICIPANTS

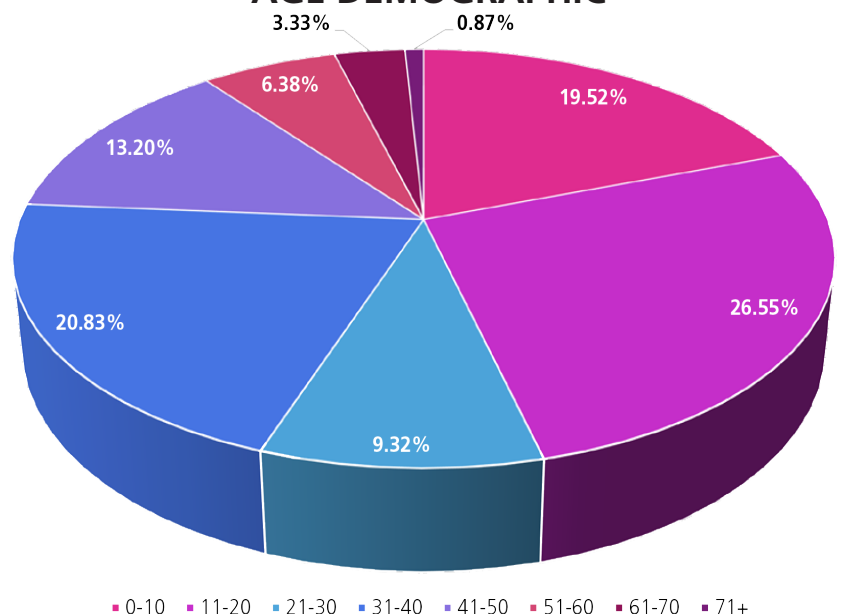
Mother nature smiled on us this year and 20,000 participants from around BC, Alberta, Washington and beyond enjoyed an incredible event blessed with blue skies and and light winds. We're pleased to announce that 1,955 girls and women of all ages were thrilled by their first flight experience.

### PARTICIPANT GEOGRAPHIC AREA



\*International visitors from: Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, China, Columbia, El Salvador, India, Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, UK and Vietnam

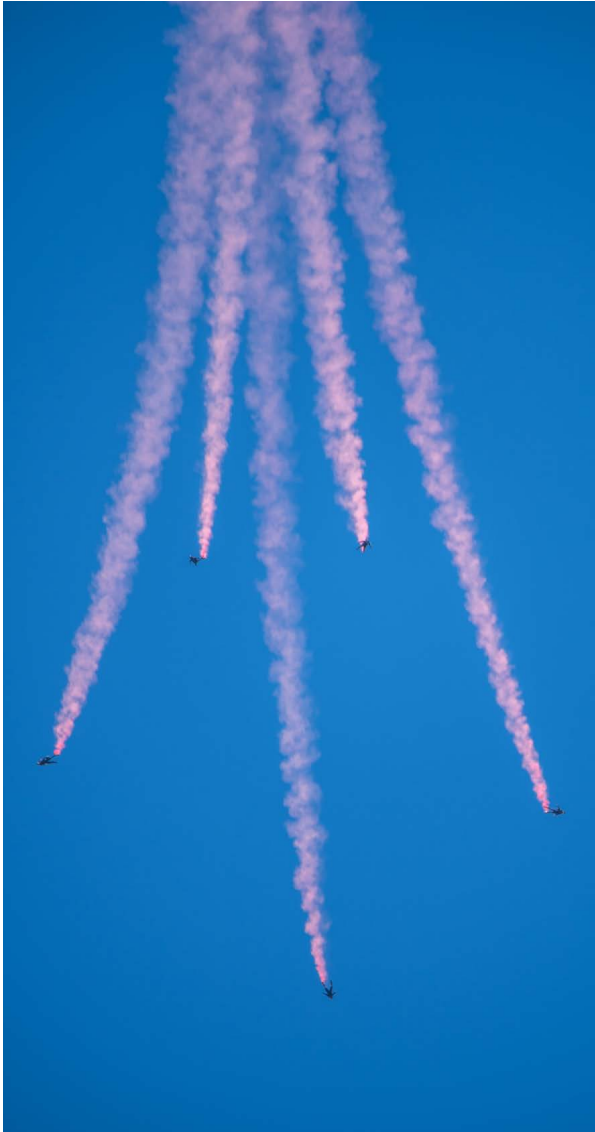
### AGE DEMOGRAPHIC



■ 0-10 ■ 11-20 ■ 21-30 ■ 31-40 ■ 41-50 ■ 51-60 ■ 61-70 ■ 71+

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## OPENING DAY

Highlights at this year's opening ceremony included performances by the Vancouver Police Pipe Band and national anthems played by the Royal Canadian Navy's Naden Band. The audience was further delighted by demonstrations from the Vancouver Police Department's motorcycle drill team, police judo team and the Colorado-based US Air Force Wings of Blue parachute team, performing for the first time in Canada.

Distinguished guest speakers included the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor for British Columbia; Garry Begg, MLA Surrey-Guilford; Mayor Henry Braun, City of Abbotsford; Consul General Katherine Dhanani, United States Consulate General Vancouver; Brigadier-General Kelly Woiden, Commander National Cadet & Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group; Commissioner Jeffery Hutchinson, Canadian Coast Guard; Chief Superintendent Jodie Boudreau, RCMP; Deputy Chief Howard Chow, Vancouver Police Department; Director of Supply Management Kelly Slater, Boeing Canada; NASA Astronaut (Retired) Wendy Lawrence; Captain Kirsten Brazier, President Achieve Anything Foundation and Founder **The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too!**; and Rishma Johal, Master of Ceremonies.





## HIGHLIGHTS

### Free Introductory Flights for Girls & Women of All Ages

Our signature annual events held during the week of International Women's Day aim to inspire female future leaders in Aviation, Aerospace, Marine & Defence. Despite the incredible opportunities available in these high technology fields, the female demographic remains conspicuously absent. Our events employ a unique, hands-on approach to pique the interest of our target audience and create a network of experience and awareness of new possibilities.

To help draw more girls and women to the airport and get them excited to explore these hands-on activities, every year we offer free introductory flights for hundreds of girls and women. There is no minimum or maximum age limit, and we encourage female friends and/or family to enjoy the experience together.

For most, the first flight experience is incredible beyond words and when the fliers land they are stoked to learn more!





## Space, The Ultimate Frontier

We were delighted to welcome NASA Astronaut and US Navy Captain (Ret.) Wendy Lawrence back for her third year at our epic annual event.

Wendy is passionate about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and loves inspiring girls and women by sharing her journeys into space as well as her experiences as a helicopter pilot landing on Navy ships. Wendy touched many lives over the weekend as she tirelessly answered countless questions from curious participants, signed autographs and posed for pictures with many admirers. Those memories will last a lifetime!

### From the seas to the stars...

When the Apollo 11 crew landed on the Moon on July 20, 1969, a ten-year-old Wendy watched on a black and white TV from 393,309 km away. That's when she became inspired to become an astronaut. From that day, Wendy became determined to apply herself heart and soul towards achieving her goal to fly in space.

After graduation from the US Naval Academy in 1981 Captain Lawrence flew helicopters off ships and was tasked with helicopter combat support and anti-submarine squadrons. Later, she became the first graduate of the US Naval Academy to fly into space and has flown four space missions including a visit to MIR, the Russian Space Station. Wendy is also an engineer with a Master of Science in Ocean Engineering.





## Fun, Interactive Activities, Displays, Aircraft & Tactical Equipment to Explore

While many participants are initially drawn to our events by the exciting prospect of their first flight experience, the real mission of exploration and discovery begins with the interactive activities, displays, aircraft and tactical equipment. Participants were able to climb through the various aircraft on static display and meet with the crews who operate them.

Aviation, Aerospace, Marine & Defence activities were incredible this year! Event exhibitors were encouraged to be creative and employ hands-on learning activities to inspire and educate participants. A treasure map with a grand prize draw provided additional incentive for participants to visit and explore all the displays.













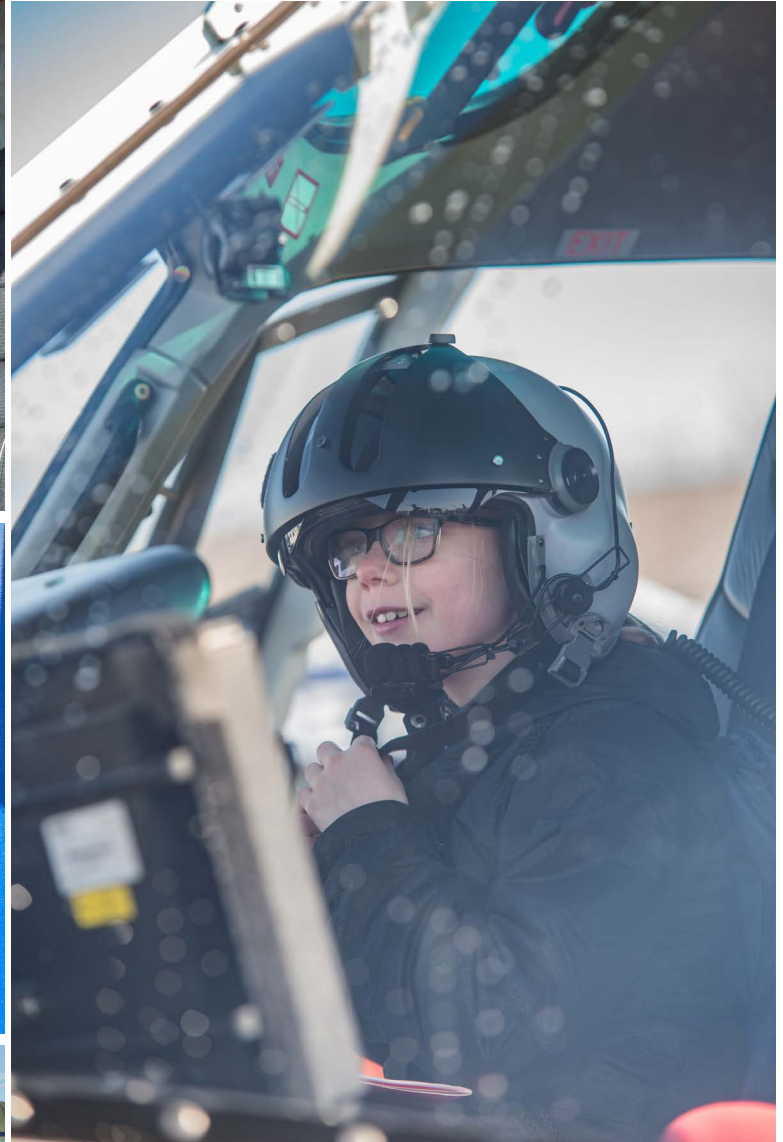




## SUMMARY REPORT 2018

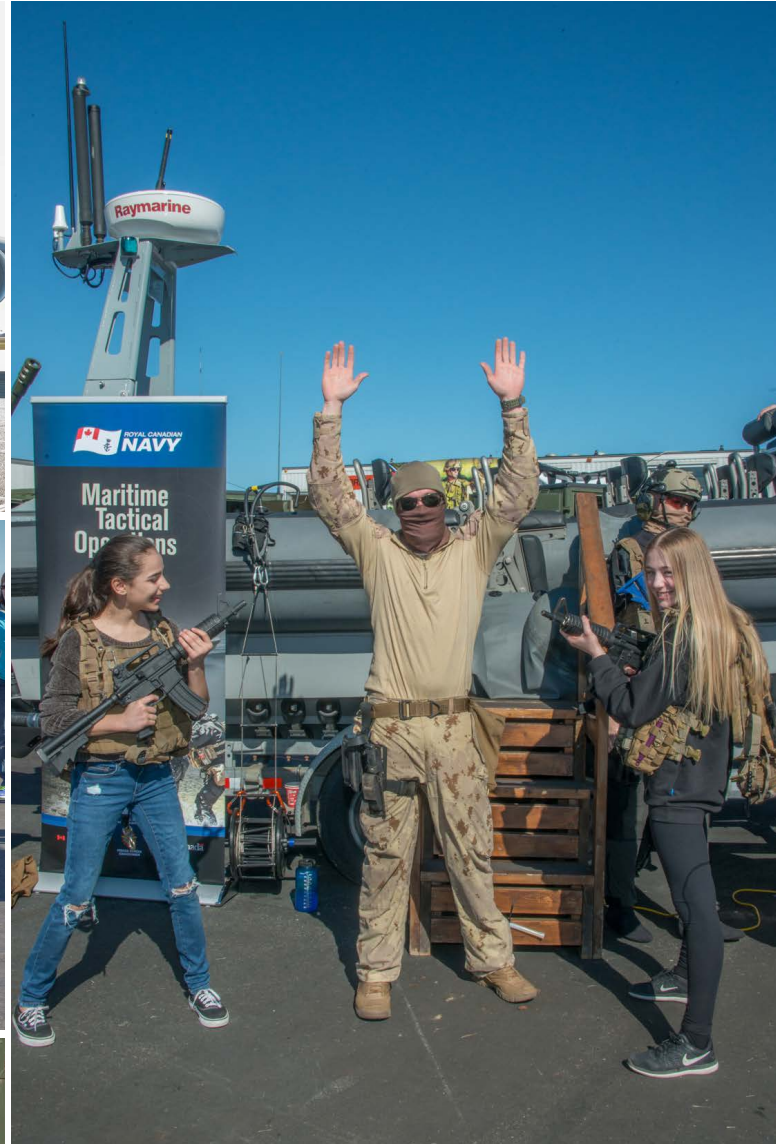
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**INSPIRED!**

Thousands of girls & women - all ages...

**Thank You** for your support!

We look forward to seeing you again in 2019!

## ACHIEVE ANYTHING FOUNDATION

Given the exponential growth of our annual events, and the widespread gender diversity problem that persists in high technology fields, it became clear we needed to expand our approach. The Achieve Anything Foundation was formed in 2016 to develop and implement year-round events, projects and programs of lasting value towards inspiring female future leaders in STEM and STEM-based fields such as Aviation, Aerospace, Marine and Defence. The Achieve Anything Foundation is a federally incorporated not-for-profit.

In addition to our annual *The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too!* events, the Foundation spearheads *Operation This IS You!*, a series of hands-on experience events held in the native environments of our agency and industry partners. We're also working on *Project STEM Girl*, an out of this world project that will revolutionize the way industry recruits girls and women into STEM.

Beyond what we are today and projects we are developing for tomorrow, we're also working towards the following:

- **ESTABLISH BASELINE / MEASURE PROGRESS:** As we grow, we're working on ways to better track the benchmark statistics of women in our STEM-based, target industries; particularly those in technical and leadership positions. Then, over the long-term, our goal is to correlate the effect of our initiatives on improving these numbers.
- **MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS:** Beyond inspiring new possibilities, we recognize the need to work with agency and industry partners to develop a network of available mentors. By providing access to this mentoring connection, those participants inspired by new possibilities will have the best chance for success.
- **INTEGRATION:** Beyond simply inspiring new recruits, we have identified that to improve the retention of women in STEM, a team-based approach towards integrating the incoming population is needed. Including the existing population is critical to success. We're working on ways to address this with our agency and industry partners.

Websites: [www.achieveanything.ca](http://www.achieveanything.ca) // [www.girlsfly2.ca](http://www.girlsfly2.ca)

Facebook: [@AchieveAnythingFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/AchieveAnythingFoundation) // [@SkysNoLimitGirlsFlyToo](https://www.facebook.com/SkysNoLimitGirlsFlyToo)

Twitter: [@AchieveGirl](https://twitter.com/AchieveGirl) // [@Kirsten\\_GF2](https://twitter.com/Kirsten_GF2)

Instagram: [@Achieve.Girl](https://www.instagram.com/Achieve.Girl) // [@Kirsten.GF2](https://www.instagram.com/Kirsten.GF2)



### Contact information:

Kirsten Brazier, President & Founder  
The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too!  
Achieve Anything Foundation

[info@achieveanything.ca](mailto:info@achieveanything.ca)

(604) 210-4033





the SKY'S NO LIMIT  
Girls fly too