

## **Yellowknife Airport wins trophy for “Most Female Pilot Friendly Airport in the World”**

YELLOWKNIFE (April 10, 2012) The efforts of four Trinity Helicopter pilots to introduce Northwest Territories girls and women to aviation have paid off. As part of the second annual Women of Aviation Worldwide Week March 5-11, the four pilots participated in The Sky’s No Limit - Girls Fly Too! event at the Yellowknife Airport, which provided the opportunity for more than 400 girls and women to experience their first flight in a small aircraft. The free flights, as well as the logistics for the event were sponsored by 27 local businesses as part of an outreach initiative for women. This initiative won the Airport the title of “Most Female-Pilot Friendly Airport in the World”.

The pilots were led by Kirsten Brazier, who won the trophy for “Most Dedicated Female Pilot Worldwide”, with 134 first flights credited. The first runner-up in that category was Megan Tyler, also from Yellowknife, who flew 128 flights. The trophy for “Most Supportive Male Pilot Worldwide” was Derrick Robinson from Yellowknife who flew 87 flights, and the first runner-up in that category was Robert Ferlisi from Yellowknife with 72 flights.

The friendly competition between airports in seven countries around the world is intended to introduce girls and women to the possibilities of a career in aviation. The Department of Transportation supported the initiative as a way to encourage women to pursue training in aviation. Transportation Minister David Ramsay says “I congratulate Kirsten, Megan, Derrick, and Robert for their world-class efforts to promote the northern aviation industry as a career path for women. I want to encourage women to consider being an important part of the future of the Northwest Territories by becoming the pilots, mechanics, airline workers, and airport managers that we need to help ensure our economic development and growth.”

Brazier, who organized the event, says that the recognition for their efforts is appreciated, but her focus is on the payoff down the road. “The aviation industry is a career that northern women can pursue in their own community. Our program will be successful if more and more of the aviation jobs in the North are filled by dedicated women who enjoy the challenge and opportunities that come from northern aviation.”

A growing number of the applicants for the Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP), which provides 15 scholarships of \$5,000 annually to residents of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, are women who are pursuing careers in northern aviation. In 2011-2012, three scholarships were awarded to women for commercial pilot training, and one was awarded for studies in aerospace engineering. Women are encouraged to apply for the ACDP scholarship for the 2012-2013 school year, with the intake for applications starting on June 1, 2012.

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