



Suite 207
124 Merton Street
Toronto, ON
M4S 2Z2

Tel: 416-222-6335
1-887-346-HOPE (4673)
Fax: 416-222-6930
www.hopeair.ca

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hope Air elects 2012 Board of Directors

March 7, 2012 (TORONTO, ON) – Hope Air, the unique, nation-wide charity that arranges free flights for Canadians who are in financial need and must travel to specialized healthcare, is pleased to announce the appointment of four new members to its Board of Directors. The appointments were announced by Board Chair Jim Danahy at Hope Air's annual general meeting held on Tuesday, March 6.

Hope Air's newest Board members are:

Ruth M. Corbin, ICD.D., M.Sc., Ph.D, LL.M

Dr. Corbin is Managing Partner and CEO of CorbinPartners Inc., an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall, York University, and a Corporate Director. Dr. Corbin has served on the Boards of The Giles School (Chair), Saint Elizabeth Health Care (Executive and Finance Committee), Toronto Hydro Corporation (Chair of the Audit Committee and the Corporate Governance Committee), Toronto Dance Theatre (Chair of Finance), MDS Inc., Trimark Financial Corporation, Canadian Mothercraft Corporation and the Royal Conservatory of Music. A recognized expert in marketing and intellectual property assessments, Dr. Corbin has previously been Vice-Chair of Leger Marketing, President and Managing Director of Kroll Canada, Chief Operating Officer of the Angus Reid Group, and Managing Partner of Royal Trust's Credit Card and Direct Financial Services Businesses. She is widely published on matters of intellectual property, survey evidence, and risk management. Dr. Corbin lives in Toronto.

Ryan Rodrigues, MBA, ICD

Mr. Rodrigues has over 13 years of progressively responsible experience in a not-for-profit environment, an ICD member and has significant board experience. Mr. Rodrigues is currently Director of Leadership Development & Recruiting at the Executive MBA Program at the Rotman School of Management (University of Toronto). Previously, he was Associate Director, Alumni Outreach at the University of Western Ontario, and, prior to that, was Director of Alumni and Parent Relations at Trinity College School in Port Hope, Ontario. Mr. Rodrigues is a graduate of the Richard Ivey School of Business (MBA) and has been a long-time volunteer in the community with a variety of entities: Tennis Canada, Camp Oochigeas, Huron University College Alumni Board, United Way, The Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation, Meals on Wheels and Legal Aid Ontario.

Andrew Abbott, MA

Mr. Abbott has over 25 years in the institutional investment community, is a private pilot and has proven dedication to community through his volunteer work with the Canadian Forces and the Chuckwagon Committee at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. Following completion of the Canadian Securities Course, Mr. Abbott began his working career in Toronto with Merrill Lynch. He subsequently worked as an investor for McNeil Mantha and the Laurentian Group prior to returning to Calgary as an institutional agency trader focused on oil and gas stocks with Peters & Co. In 2002, Mr. Abbott became a founding partner and managing director of Institutional Trading



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for Tristone Capital, a global energy specialist firm, headquartered in Calgary. In April 2008, Mr. Abbott was appointed an Honorary Colonel of 1 Air Maintenance Squadron at 4 Wing Cold Lake, AB. He lives in Calgary and is currently on an educational sabbatical.

Robb Walker

Mr. Walker is Senior Vice President – Operations of SilverBirch Hotels & Resorts and is based in Vancouver. In this role, Mr. Walker leads a team of eight direct reports, including six Vice Presidents, and approximately 4,000 support staff and has operational responsibility for a portfolio of 21 hotels. SilverBirch is one of Canada's leading hotel management companies and is an investment of bcIMC (British Columbia Investment Management Corporation). The company manages independent hotels and hotels operating under major franchise brands, such as Radisson, Hilton and Quality. Mr. Walker has over 25 years experience in the hotel and resort industry, in senior management positions, throughout North America. He also has previous board experience with the Humber College School of Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism (Toronto), with the Aspen Institute and with the Alvarez and Marsal/River Hospitality Management board of Los Angeles.

“Hope Air is delighted and honoured to welcome these new members to our charitable organization,” says Jim Danahy, Chair of the Board of Directors and a volunteer with Hope Air since 2003. “I look forward to working with our outstanding team of Directors on the critical issue of ensuring that all Canadians, regardless of where they live in Canada or their income, are able to reach the healthcare they need and deserve. When we have achieved that, our healthcare system will be truly universal.”

“I am proud to volunteer with Hope Air because I know, first-hand, how large Canada is and how much stress people endure when travelling, especially for healthcare,” says Robb Walker, Senior Vice President – Operations of SilverBirch Hotels & Resorts. “I look forward to contributing to an organization that is working hard to improve access to specialized medical care for low-income Canadians, regardless of where they live.”

The new board members join the following dedicated group of volunteers who already serve on the Hope Air Board of Directors:

Jim Danahy, Chair (President & CEO, CustomerLAB – Port Credit ON)

Isabel Meharry, Treasurer, (Vice-President, Finance, Secretary Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer, Green Shield Canada – Toronto ON)

Alec Zimmerman, Secretary (Partner, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP – Toronto ON)

Sam Barone (President & CEO, Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA) – Ottawa ON)

Jim Burton (Co-owner & Vice-President of RE/MAX Plus Realty Inc. – St. John's NL)

David Garner (Former President, Green Shield Canada – Blue Mountains ON)

Dr. Michael Golbey (Family Physician & Chair of the Canadian Medical Association – Kelowna BC)

Jim Gouk (Former Member of Parliament for BC Southern Interior – Castlegar BC)



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Blair McRobie (Banking Executive (Retired) – Toronto ON)
George Mohacsi (President and CEO, Foresters – Toronto ON)
Phil Sproul (Business Executive – Mississauga ON)
Keith Wellon (Vice President, Business Development, Cahill Industrial – Calgary AB)
Gerd Wengler (President, Park Property Management Inc. – Milton ON)

Hope Air also has three Honorary Patrons:

Viceregal Patron:

His Excellency, The Right Honourable David Johnston, CC, CMM, COM, CD,
Governor General of Canada

National Honorary Patrons:

Marc Garneau, CC, CD, PhD, FCASI
Rick Mercer

Hope Air salutes retiring Director **Peter Jennings** of Muskoka's Best Marketing in Port Carling ON. Peter joined the Hope Air Board of Directors in 2002, served as Chair of the Marketing & Communications Committee for many years and served as Chair of the Board from 2009 until mid-2011. Thank you, Peter, for all that you have done for Hope Air over the past 10 years.

For more information, please contact:

C.K. DesGrosseilliers
Communications Manager
Hope Air
ckdesgrosseilliers@hopeair.org
416-222-6335, ext. 227
Toll-Free 1-877-346-4673

About Hope Air

Hope Air was founded in 1986 to get financially-disadvantaged Canadians to specialized medical care that is only available in Canada's larger urban centres. Since then, Hope Air has expanded to arrange free flights for people of all ages, with all illnesses, from all across Canada. Hope Air provided 4,579 flights in 2011, a 25 per cent increase over the year prior. Hope Air operates three different flight programs: the Commercial Airline Donation Program, with flights provided by many of Canada's national and regional air carriers; the Volunteer Pilot Program, with private pilots contributing their skills and aircraft; and the Flight Purchase Program, which uses donated funds to purchase airline seats. Currently, 87 per cent of all revenue and in-kind donations are directly applied to Hope Air flight programs. We always work hard to keep administration costs low and our goal is to provide 90 per cent of all donations to the Hope Air Mission of **Getting Canadians To Getting Better!** Please visit www.hopeair.ca to learn more.