

KEEP THE FIGHT IN FLIGHT IMPACT REPORT

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

STARS[®]



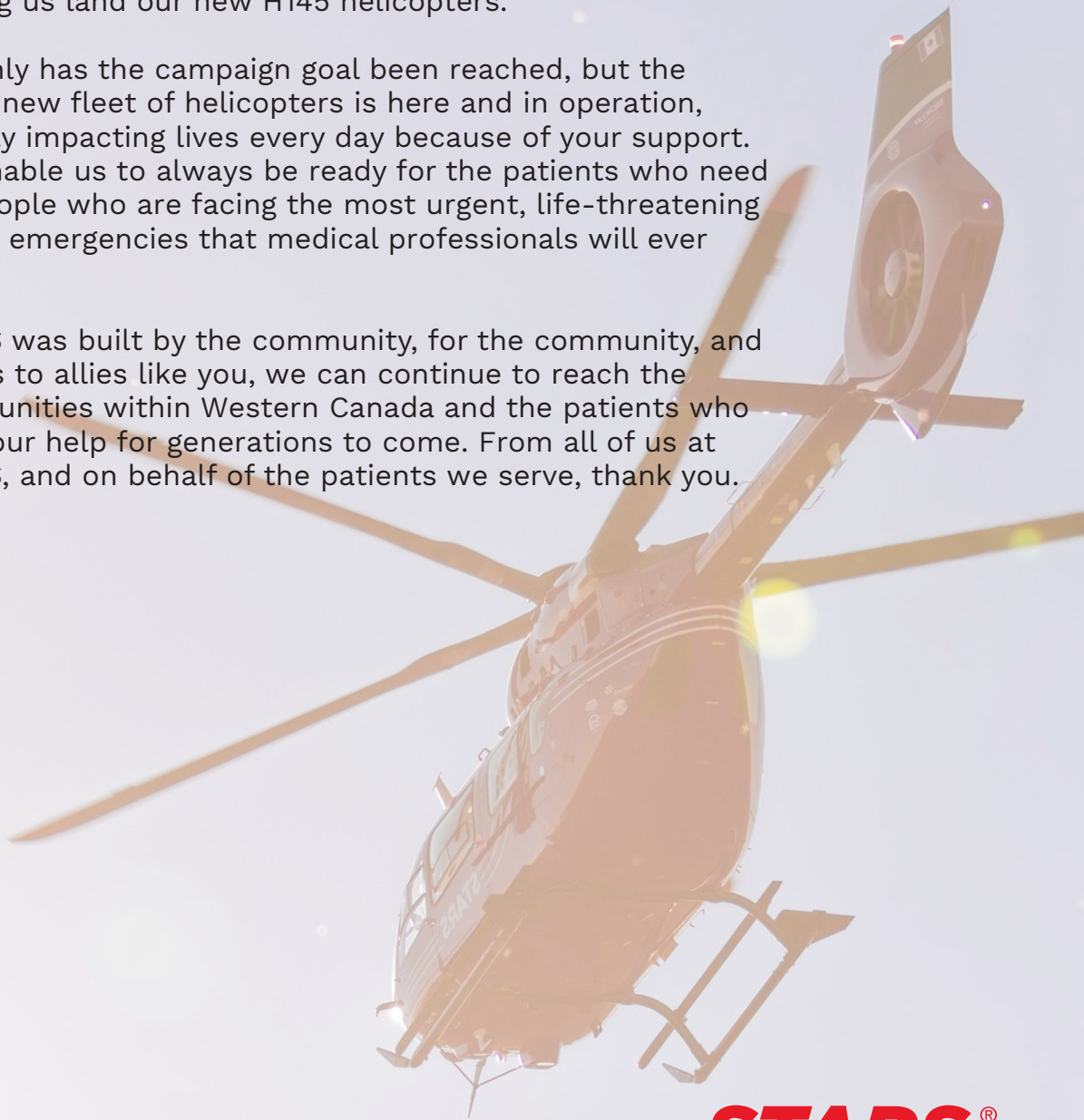


YOUR NEW FLEET IS OUR NEW REALITY

Our Keep The Fight in Flight capital campaign goal has been reached, thanks to generous allies like you! Saddle Hills County's \$500,000 gift towards this campaign has enabled us to transform our fleet faster than we could have imagined. We are so honoured by your commitment to helping us land our new H145 helicopters.

Not only has the campaign goal been reached, but the entire new fleet of helicopters is here and in operation, directly impacting lives every day because of your support. You enable us to always be ready for the patients who need us: people who are facing the most urgent, life-threatening health emergencies that medical professionals will ever see.

STARS was built by the community, for the community, and thanks to allies like you, we can continue to reach the communities within Western Canada and the patients who need our help for generations to come. From all of us at **STARS**, and on behalf of the patients we serve, thank you.



STARS®

FINAL AIRCRAFT COMMENCE OPERATIONS IN EDMONTON AND GRANDE PRAIRIE



The new H145 is pulled into the Edmonton **STARS** hangar during the arrival celebration with the community.

STARS officially welcomed our new Airbus H145 helicopters to Edmonton and Grande Prairie last spring.

Events were held to pay tribute to our community allies who have helped build and sustain **STARS** throughout the province. The milestone events included federal, provincial, and municipal government representatives, community partners and allies, and **STARS** crew and former patients.

The H145 helicopter has already helped patients in the area, having entered service in the summer of 2022 after months of aviation, medical and engineering training.

This was a significant milestone as it means that all six bases are now flying the new helicopter model and improving our ability to be there for patients in Alberta— a long-awaited milestone, thanks to generous support from you.



Community allies welcome the new H145 to the Grande Prairie **STARS** base.



STARS LINKEES HONOURED WITH CALL SIGN ON NEW HELICOPTER



STARS took possession of our 10th Airbus H145 helicopter in October. The registration letters C-FLNK are a shout-out to the **STARS** Emergency Link Centre (ELC). The ELC is made up of amazing people working around the clock who act as a critical care logistics hub, connecting patients with help. LNK will honour this hardworking team and the pivotal role the ELC plays in bringing together all health care and emergency response professionals.

The ELC has always been linked with the crew on every mission, but this will be even more true, as an aircraft bearing their name will now be in the community reaching people in need of life-saving care.

CRITICAL CARE, ANYWHERE

WITH THE H145 * * *

When **STARS** set out to replace our fleet of helicopters, our main goal was to sustain and grow our ability to provide the best care available to patients who need us most now and into the future. Thanks to generous support from you, the Airbus H145 aircraft have been implemented across all six **STARS** bases and are doing what we set out for – improved patient access and care.

The features of the H145 are “are almost too numerous to go through,” according to Dave Harding, **STARS** chief aviation officer. “This aircraft does things that the previous aircraft couldn’t even hope to do.”

H145 automation, one of the new features, plays a role in enhanced confidence in the cockpit and is considered the most important aspect in terms of overall safety, Harding said.

“The most stressful mission in a BK117 now becomes a mission that is much more easily managed ... now the aircraft is taking care of a lot of the grunt work,” said Harding. “The crew have a tremendous increase in that free space in their cognitive ability, so they can make good decisions, sound decisions — the safest decisions.”

For the **STARS** air medical crew, too, there are distinct advantages...

Once the patient is “packaged,” a bridge is locked in place to the stretcher over their upper legs. All equipment — intravenous lines, ventilator, blood tubing, multiple infusions — can be mounted on the bridge.



Everything stays fastened for the entire journey.

The medical crew can also detach the stretcher from its wheels, tote it to wherever it is needed, then return to the helicopter with the patient and smoothly slide it back into place.

“Imagine, when you land in an unprepared field, whether it’s cow patties and plowed dirt, trying to lug that stretcher (with wheels on),” said Greg Barton, **STARS** flight paramedic.



The communications system for the H145 is another major upgrade. There are now two radios, meaning one of the medical crew can reach out to the Emergency Link Centre, while another member can contact local first responders on scene. Each aircraft is also equipped with Wi-Fi and satellite capability, which **STARS** is using to trial physicians’ ability to remotely access patient data in real time.

The most pivotal advantage of our helicopter mobile intensive care units is that patients start receiving life-saving care right away.

“I just can’t emphasize enough how much we appreciate the support of our allies in allowing us to do this and care for these critical patients in the back,” said Barton.

“We’re really excited about being able to offer critical care to our patients for generations to come – thank you so much.”

WHAT DOES A NEW H145 MEAN TO THE STARS MEDICAL CREW?



“The biggest risk to the patients we serve is the transport. The multifunctional stretcher system in the H145 – with the ability to mount all essential medical equipment to a locked bridge over the patient’s legs – will help mitigate the risks throughout the transport.”

— GREG BARTON | **STARS** flight paramedic

“The H145 has allowed us to continue to improve the patient care we provide in so many ways. Fewer fuel stops and the ability to carry more weight has also widened our ability to provide care for more people.”

— MARLA TABLER | **STARS** flight nurse



ADDITIONAL ASSET BOLSTERS RESPONSE ABILITY



Thanks to the support of you, our donors, **STARS** was able to order and start operating the original nine aircraft much sooner than originally hoped. With a growing mission volume and the maintenance required for the fleet, our engineers undertook a detailed assessment, which clearly showed that having 10 helicopters available would ensure that all six bases would be covered.

Having 10 aircraft that are now operational makes a significant impact. The additional aircraft ensures that our crew is able to conduct training without taking an aircraft out of service and affecting **STARS** operations.

The expanded fleet has placed the organization in a far more sustainable place for the future. It will give us the ability to not only continue our training and maintain uninterrupted 24/7 service, but also respond to requests for additional assistance during mass-casualty incidents when required.

SAFETY: AS CRITICAL AS OUR CARE

STARS' highly skilled team of engineers work across all six bases and are on-call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They ensure that our fleet is always safe and mission-ready. One of the benefits of operating a single model of aircraft is less time and money spent on dual-platform maintenance and training.

Our H145 fleet requires scheduled maintenance every year after 400 and 800 hours of accrued flying time. This vigorous process includes the removal of the outer coverings to inspect and test each element including the engines, avionics, and airframe.

“In the past, these cowlings needed a lot of shelf and floor space for the duration of the maintenance process – which can take up to three weeks or more, depending on the type of inspection needed,” said Brad Parkinson, an aircraft maintenance engineer at **STARS**. “This created more risk of damage to the cowlings or potentially the aircraft themselves with less hangar space for moving aircraft in and out.”

Thanks to the vision and generosity of community allies **STARS** now has a custom-designed solution. A group of local businesses built a rolling cowl stand, with shaped and padded “shelves” for storing all the necessary H145 cowlings when the team is working on the aircraft. “The cowl stand functions incredibly well, allowing us to safely store the helicopter cowlings and roll them away to an area far from the possibility of them being harmed,” said Parkinson.

“We’re immensely grateful to our community supporters for designing and building such a useful piece of equipment that saves space, time and money and contributes to the overall success of our mission.”

A FLEET FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Noah Campbell and his sister Ava are well known to the **STARS** family. Their dad, Brad Campbell, is a **STARS** Very Important Patient, and the two children have been amazing **STARS** ambassadors, including donating their birthday money to **STARS**.

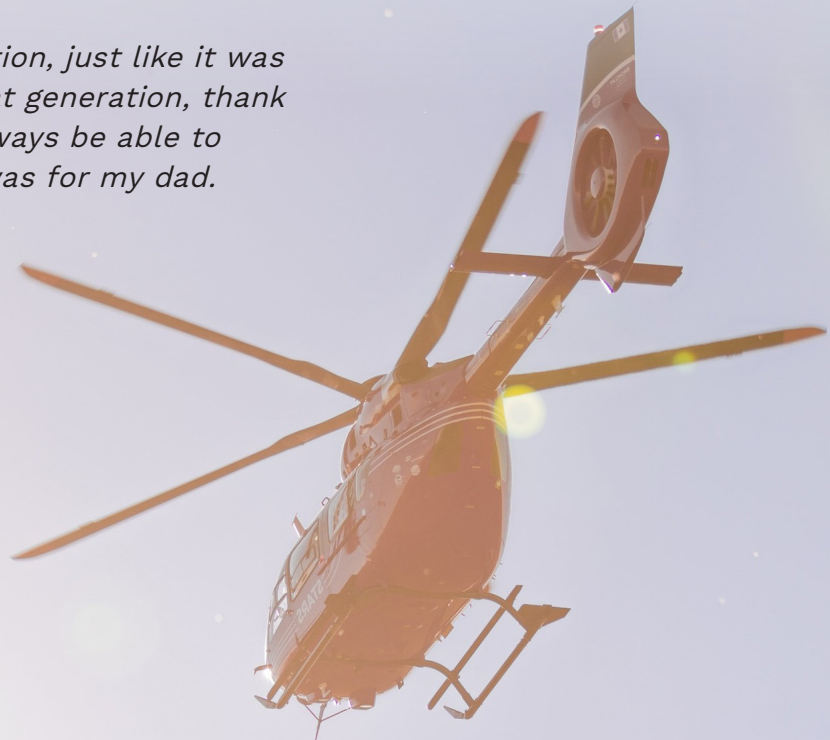
At one of our recent H145 arrival events, we had the unique opportunity to have Noah share his perspective of what having a new fleet of helicopters means to him. Here are his words:

*Since 1985 **STARS** and its amazing crew members have helped lots and lots of people who urgently needed emergency care away from a hospital — that's a whole generation of kids, moms, dads, and grandparents whose lives have been changed. My dad was one of them.*

*The **STARS** helicopter has been a very important and reliable tool in letting **STARS** give people that care, but just like a beloved family car that has driven many kilometres over the years, that helicopter needed to be replaced. So **STARS** asked people like you for help, and the response was huge. Communities didn't hesitate to dig into their pockets and help **STARS** raise the money they needed for the massive replacement project.*

So, what does that mean?

*It means **STARS** is ready for the next generation, just like it was for the previous one. So, from all of us in that generation, thank you. Your support means kids like me will always be able to count on **STARS** for being there, just like it was for my dad.*



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT STARS OR WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ALLY?

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