



CC-130H Hercules Fleet

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

WHEREAS escalating wildfires and climate change are increasing in intensity and cost across British Columbia and Canada threatening the unceded territories of many First Nations and impairing the ability of Indigenous peoples across Canada to exercise their rights protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, including rights related to land, culture, and traditional practices and resulting in mounting economic costs and greater risk to life and critical infrastructure, demanding bold and timely action;

WHEREAS larger fires emit greenhouse gases and black carbon smoke that intensify warning and harm air quality and converting Canada's retired CC-130H Hercules fleet into modern air tankers would protect communities, critical infrastructure, and help reduce catastrophic carbon emissions from wildfires;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with the Government of Canada to:

1. Partner with First Nations and the private sector to retrofit a portion of Canada's retired CC-130H Hercules fleet into large air tankers for wildfire suppression in Canada.
2. Deploy these aircraft as part of a strengthened national wildfire response capacity, to be shared with provinces and territories and, where appropriate, used for international humanitarian and emergency missions. Consider that the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre assist in managing deployment under a transparent cost-sharing framework, with initial operating capability by the 2027 wildfire season.
3. Prioritize this made-in-Canada solution that leverages Canadian engineering, protects lives and communities, upholds Indigenous rights, and contributes to environmental sustainability.

Background:

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District has been impacted by three significant wildfires since 2023. Currently, our Emergency Operations Centre continues to work with BC Wildfire Services and others to respond to the Mount Underwood wildfire which started on August 11, 2025, and is classified as being held at 3,518 hectares. The Cameron Lake Bluff wildfire of 2023, although significantly smaller in size, had devastating and long-lasting impacts on communities of the regional district, and the Wesley Ridge fire of 2025 caused similar negative economic impacts. Two of these wildfires resulted in road closures, not only causing significant impacts on residents' health, safety, and well-being but also devastating economic impacts for many throughout the region. Further, these wildfires continue to adversely affect the ability of Indigenous peoples to exercise their constitutionally protected rights.

As of September 12, 2025, the BC Wildfire Service website lists 144 wildfires classified as out of control, being held or under control. Without a national air tanker fleet, provinces must shoulder the costs of aviation resources with the risk that they may not be available when needed. More and more countries are beginning to retrofit retired military aircrafts for aerial firefighting, which has proven to provide a more rapid-response capability and increased national resilience. Converting Canada's retired CC-130H Hercules fleet into modern airtankers would allow British Columbia and provinces across the country to respond to wildfires more rapidly. This investment would help to keep our communities and residents safe, protect critical infrastructure and decrease the risks from catastrophic carbon emissions.