



Reference: 286004

September 21, 2026

VIA EMAIL: info@avicc.ca

Vanessa Craig, President
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
PO Box 28058
Victoria, BC V9B 6K8

Dear Vanessa Craig:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities' resolution 2026-R39 requesting the Province of British Columbia to collaborate with the federal government on a project to retrofit part of Canada's CC-130H Hercules fleet into airtankers for wildfire suppression.

As you may have seen in recent media reports, I have expressed my support of Coulson Aviation's proposal to obtain the Hercules aircraft. This support is also in alignment with resolution 2026-R39. [Federal Government News Release](#)

We, as a province, continue to explore opportunities to strengthen and improve our ariel capabilities to expand our wildfire response capacity. This work will continue year-round and involves our partners across sectors.

The Government of Canada announced on December 1, 2025, a significant aerial firefighting capacity boost to protect communities from wildfire. I encourage the AVICC to share its thoughts with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) as the federal aerial firefighting fleet, and the movement and sharing of resources between provinces and territories, is managed through the CIFFC.

Again, thank you for writing to share your resolution endorsement. Your advocacy and shared ambition to continue improving British Columbia's wildfire response is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ravi Parmar
Minister

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pc: The Honourable Eleanor Olszewski, Minister of Emergency Management and
Community Resilience, Government of Canada
The Honourable David McGuinty, Minister of National Defence, Government
of Canada
Honourable Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate
Readiness, Province of British Columbia
Honourable Brittney Anderson, Minister of State for Local Government and Rural
Communities, Province of British Columbia
John Jack, Chair, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Daniel Sailland, CAO, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District