

PRESS RELEASE JUNE 9, 2023

**The famous Martin Mars Waterbomber could be coming to Victoria!**

SIDNEY, BC – One of the most famous aircraft in BC aviation history, the mighty Martin Mars waterbomber, equal in size to a Boeing 747, could be coming to the BC Aviation Museum.

The Mars flew from 1961 to 2015 around North America fighting over 4000 wildfires with its massive water dropping ability that could end a huge blaze in a single pass. These enormous red and white aircraft captured the hearts of British Columbians for how they saved BC forests.

And now it is time for BC to save the Mars.

Originally several Mars were built by the US Navy during World War 2 to transport troops across the Pacific. In 1960 they were brought to Canada for a radical conversion to become waterbombers. They went on to be based at Sproat Lake, BC for 6 decades.

After the current owners, Coulson Aviation, retired their Mars fleet several years ago, the BC Aviation Museum began discussions with the owners, the intention being for the iconic Mars to become the signature display in the museum's growing BC wildfire aviation exhibit.

Discussions are still ongoing. When the donation is successfully concluded, the museum has exciting new upgrades planned to further enhance the visitor experience.

The BC Aviation Museum celebrates the past, present and future of BC Aviation with one of the largest aviation collections in Canada. Visitors of all ages will be amazed by our interactive experiences. Come and learn about aviation and BC's incredible aviation stories.

## **WHERE HISTORY TAKES FLIGHT**

The museum is located at the Victoria International Airport and it is open daily from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For additional information, please contact;

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