

Attn: Newsroom

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#BRINGBACKTHEMARS

Massive Petition to be Delivered to Premier's Constituency office in West Kelowna on Thursday.

A petition titled "Christy Clark: Contract the Martin Mars Waterbombers for 5 more years to protect BC" has grown exponentially. Through an incredible outpouring of support on social media the petition has gathered over 16,500 signatures, representing all corners of the province in a very short time.

On Thursday July 24th at 12:30PM, marking one week since the petition's inception, it will be hand delivered to the Premier's constituency office in West Kelowna by a group of BC citizens brought together by their concern for the future of BC's forests and communities if the famous water bomber is not brought back into service.

Much like the unanimous resolution passed in September 2013 at the Union of BC Municipalities that called on the Province to "renew the contract with the Coulson Group and retain the Martin Mars water bomber as part of its fire suppression program", so too have the people of British Columbia come together online to voice their own urgency to have the province continue to protect British Columbia with this incredible made-in-BC legend in its arsenal.

British Columbia is under severe attack from wildfires this season and West Kelowna, the scene of recent mass evacuations due to the terrible Smith Creek fire, has suffered most of all. "If anyone should care about bringing back BC's most effective water bomber it should be the MLA for Westside-Kelowna and Premier of British Columbia." says Chris Alemany, creator of the petition.

The petition (<http://www.change.org/bringbackthemars>) was created by Alemany, a Media Technician at Vancouver Island University who isn't affiliated to any group, organization or company though he is considering running for council in the City of Port Alberni.

More information:

Chris Alemany,

Tel: (250) 723-0889
Twitter: @chrisalecanada
Email: chrisale@gmail.com

Photos available on request