

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: June 2021

**Project Region: BC Interior
Spread 5A**

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 806–885**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) has retained Indigenous Monitors as integrated members of its construction Environmental Inspection team. Indigenous Monitors work with Environmental Inspectors to monitor compliance with mitigation measures to minimize impacts to traditional resource use and cultural/heritage sites during construction. Indigenous Monitors have a strategic role in providing traditional knowledge directly and pragmatically to construction oversight practices and bring an Indigenous lens to daily environmental inspection activities.

This Overview Report provides highlights of the Indigenous Monitors' day-to-day work and key mitigation measures observed by the Monitors related to Project construction in the BC Interior Region. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key activities in the BC Interior Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 806 to 885 in Spread 5A and included monitoring environmental features, vegetation management, pump stations, de-watering activities and Traditional Land Use (TLU) and Heritage Resource sites. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for June 2021, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

The Project has a process for sharing information related to potential TLU and Heritage Resource chance finds during construction. The [Protecting TLU and Cultural Heritage Resources Fact Sheet \(link here\)](#) provides an overview of the chance find communication process. Applicable Indigenous groups are notified and engaged directly on potential chance finds.

For more information: email info@transmountain.com or call 1.866.514.6700.

Trans Mountain COVID-19 – Our Response

Trans Mountain is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation with the help of federal, provincial and local agencies. Trans Mountain's top priority remains the health and safety of its workforce, their families and our communities.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

TLU and Heritage Resources Training

In June, Indigenous Monitors from each region of the Expansion Project participated in a two-hour online live training session focused on TMEP's TLU and Heritage Resources Contingency Plans, processes and communications.

The training sessions were regionally focused to incorporate common TLU and heritage resource types in the various Project regions (Alberta, BC Interior and the Lower Mainland), and participants were encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives. Sharing of Indigenous Monitor stories and experiences would highlight the resources for the team to be looking for on the landscape as construction progresses.

The training sessions were organized by the Trans Mountain Indigenous Monitor Coordination team and presented by Resource Specialists, including an open dialogue with Indigenous Monitors.



De-watering Management

During construction activity, water that accumulates within the Project area from precipitation or groundwater seepage is visually assessed prior to being pumped to areas approved by the Trans Mountain Environmental Inspector.

This water is discharged through a filtration device and into the vegetation and soils in areas. From there, it will slowly infiltrate into local soils.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected the pump-off of water near KP 871. They observed water coming out of the silt bag free of sediment. The release site was noted as well vegetated and the silt bag was clean. The water management mitigation measures were followed and verified.



Pump-off location, for de-watering activities.

Environmental Features

Environmental features such as rare plants and rare ecological communities, wildlife species of concern, archaeological features, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental or cultural features that occur on or adjacent to the construction footprint are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced prior to commencing construction. The features are clearly marked so they can be protected during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected environmentally sensitive areas near KP 847, including plant gathering sites, habitation sites and trails to ensure the flagging/staking and observed that signage remains in place and the appropriate mitigations are being followed, such as clearly marking all identified areas. Signage was missing at a TLU site. The Indigenous Monitor reported the deficiency and worked collaboratively with the Environmental Inspector and Construction Contractor to replace the sign. No further followup was required.



Signage observed near KP 847.

Vegetation Management

Trans Mountain conducts routine vegetation management on the right-of-way and at facilities. Trans Mountain is responsible for managing problem vegetation including:

- Noxious weeds that pose a hazard to people, animals or crops.
- Invasive weeds, which are plants that have been introduced into the environment that threaten naturally occurring and indigenous plants.

At KP 821, Kutchia (a weed species) was reported growing on topsoil and transition piles. The Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector reported the deficiency, notified the team in charge of the herbicide application and indicated that the soil piles were within a TLU no-spray zone. In no-spray zone areas, hand picking is a preferred management method. The Environmental Inspector worked collaboratively with the contractor to remove the Kutchia. The Indigenous Monitor continues to participate in followup inspections for this area.



Near KP 821, observing Kutchia growing on topsoil piles.

Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to illustrate locations of and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and TLU areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for over seven years.

In the event a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified traditional land use area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

The Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in areas where trees were identified that were thought to be potentially culturally modified.

Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity. Trees found during a CMT sweep were examined by the Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors on-site to collect initial information. Measurements were recorded to determine the diameter breast height (DBH). The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Resource specialists were contacted for evaluation of the tree and potential mitigation. The engagement process with applicable Indigenous groups was initiated to share information about the resource and seek feedback. The assessment of this resource is in progress.



General area of CMT sweeps conducted near Jacko Lake and Kenna Cartwright.

Kingsvale Pump Station

As part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, 12 new pump stations are being added to the pipeline system, 11 for the new pipeline and one for the existing pipeline. Pump stations are a critical component of the operations of the pipeline system. They contain electric motors to drive the pumps that maintain the pressure and flow rate in the pipeline.

In June, a joint inspection was conducted by an Environmental Inspector and an Indigenous Monitor at the Kingsvale pump station, near KP 952. The Facilities Environmental Protection Plan was reviewed and referenced during the inspection to ensure correct mitigations were identified. The inspection included observing a waste boil poly tank being placed in the ground and the sites waste management procedures and disposal bins. No surface spills were identified during inspection. No environmental concerns were recorded at the time of the inspection.



Waste boil poly tank set in place.

Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided with daily on-site field support from Environmental Inspectors and office support from Indigenous Monitor Coordinators. Indigenous Monitors can also make specific support requests or submit questions through their daily report. Examples include but are not limited to: request for Project reports, input from an environmental resource specialist or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. Monthly requests and their completion status are noted below.

Status	Rolling Total and Type of Requests				
	Project Reports/Documents	Environmental Resource Specialists	Elder/Cultural Knowledge Holder	Other	Total
Total	6	0	2	0	8
Fulfilled	6	-	2	-	8
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

This report has been reviewed by the active Indigenous Monitor(s)

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