

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: April 2021**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26**

**Project Region: Coquihalla Hope  
Spread 5B**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 1020–1075**

### **Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview**

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project) 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 Coquihalla Hope 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 Coquihalla Hope Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 1020 to 1075 in Spread 5B and included monitoring log hauling, de-watering management, topsoil stripping and grading, and culturally modified tree assessments. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for April 2021, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

**For more information: email [info@transmountain.com](mailto: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. Trans Mountain and its construction contractors are working diligently together to adhere to all advice and direction from government and health officials, while ensuring the safe uninterrupted operation of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the continued, safe construction of the Expansion Project. Measures being undertaken at construction sites include: temperature screening; following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers' orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

**For more information: [transmountain.com/covid19](https://transmountain.com/covid19)**

## Topsoil Stripping and Grading

At KP 1073, topsoil stripping and grading activities are taking place. When removing topsoil, there are several required mitigations including the inspection of topsoil pile(s) to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits. Appropriate construction equipment must also be used during topsoil stripping when frozen ground conditions are encountered.

The Indigenous Monitors have been involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil stripping mitigations. They also inspect the cleared area to investigate any potential chance finds that could be unearthed. No issues or chance finds were identified.



Grading activities near KP 1073.

## Log Hauling

Log hauling and chip hauling activities were observed near Karen Creek. Trans Mountain has a Timber Salvage Plan outlining practices around management and handling of trees cleared along the Project right-of-way. Trans Mountain is working with Indigenous communities that have identified timber salvage interests.

The Indigenous Monitors conduct inspections to confirm the haul trucks are washed thoroughly before entering the site. This reduces the risk for introducing and spreading noxious weeds and soil pathogens. Indigenous Monitors worked with the loader on-site to monitor log integrity. This prevents waste of merchantable timber.

In warm weather conditions, topsoil tracking is a high priority. Rutting, admixing and compaction are closely monitored while the haul trucks are on-site. No concerns were identified during the inspection.



Chip hauling for future reclamation activities near KP 1020.

## De-watering Management

Near KP 1074, 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 the Popkum area. It was verified that the water management mitigation measures were followed per the Environmental Protection Plan.



Popkum pump-off location. Relocating water collection in low-lying depression to an indirect release location.

## Traditional Land Use (TLU) Sites

During construction, cultural use areas are noted along the right-of-way. Such locations have been identified during traditional use studies conducted by Indigenous groups prior to construction. As part of the Environmental Protection Plan, there is a Traditional Land Use Sites Discovery Contingency Plan which outlines steps to take in the event previously unidentified TLU sites are identified during construction.

Indigenous Monitors monitored previously identified TLU areas along the right-of-way, ensuring mitigation was in place including signage and documentation of any current use.

Trans Mountain also facilitated tours for Indigenous visitors to observe construction activity and discuss the construction process, environmental mitigation measures and how the right-of-way will be reclaimed.



Trees assessed for evidence of cultural modification.

## 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	8	0	2	0	10
Fulfilled	8	-	2	-	10
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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