

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: March 2021**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27**

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

**Kilometer Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 1033–1075**

### **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 1033 to 1075 in Spread 5B and included monitoring soil salvage, hydrovac excavation, topsoil stripping and grading and culturally modified tree assessments. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for March 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)**

### Soil Salvage

During construction activities, Indigenous Monitors were on-site performing monitoring and inspection duties related to soils including ensuring equipment arrived clean on-site, soil piles placed within the survey limits of the right-of-way and properly labelled and that topsoil and transition piles had adequate buffers.

Near Othello Road, Indigenous Monitors have been involved in inspecting the salvage and placement of topsoil and are available if any potential heritage resources or items of traditional land use interest are unearthed during soil stripping operations. No concerns were reported during the inspection.



Silt fence used to separate soils to reduce admixing.

### Hydrovac Excavations

Hydrovac excavations are taking place at areas along the right-of-way. Hydrovac excavations are used in sensitive areas where there is potential for underground utility damage. High-pressure water and a vacuum are used to safely excavate sensitive areas.

At KP 1062, the Indigenous Monitors inspected the hydrovac activity including slurry disposal, utilizing approved clean storage tank and pre-determined disposal locations. Proper bio-security measures, safety protocols and good housekeeping was noted. No issues were identified.




Hydrovac excavation east of Chilliwack.

### Topsoil Stripping and Grading

At KP 1033, 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



<p>uneearthed. No issues or chance finds were identified.</p>	<p>Grading, stripping, and ditching activities monitored at Road 30, east of Hope.</p>
<p><b>Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)</b></p> <p>Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to locate and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and traditional use areas. Such locations have been identified via traditional use studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years.</p> <p>In the event a site or location is observed that may be a previously unidentified traditional use area, the Traditional Land Use (TLU) Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An Indigenous Monitor assisted with a CMT assessment for trees found during a sweep. Measurements were recorded to determine the diameter breast height (DBH), height of the tree and scar measurements.</p> <p>It was determined that the tree was dead and a danger tree assessment was completed. The tree was buffered to allow for ongoing assessments with the resource specialist, Indigenous Monitor, Environmental Inspector and communities involved.</p>	 <p>Trees assessed for evidence of cultural modification.</p>



## Regulator Meetings

In March, the Indigenous Monitors attended a online gathering hosted by the IAMC. The engagement was an online workshop organized to create opportunities for interaction between IAMC and TMEP IMs outside of in-field activities. This workshop provided an opportunity for IMs from both programs to gain an understanding of both the IAMC and TMEP Indigenous Monitoring Programs and create two-way dialogue for IMs from both programs to get to know each other and the work they do.

## 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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