

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: April 2023

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 24

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

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 990–1075**

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 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 990 to 1075 in Spread 5B and included monitoring temporary construction lands, topsoil removal, conducting culturally modified tree sweeps and monitoring archaeological assessment activities. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for April 2023, 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 Traditional Land Use (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.

Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA)

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to identify 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 conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the implementation of an AIA conducted near Hope and Laidlaw Road. The assessment, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, may include visual inspection to identify features with predictable archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and shovel testing of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential. No concerns were identified.

If an archaeological site is found, Trans Mountain completes the applicable reporting and applies for the required permits in alignment with the Heritage Conservation Act. Engagement with Indigenous groups occurs when a previously unidentified site is discovered. Ongoing AIA activities continue.



Near Laidlaw Road, soil from Dent pit. Soils screened and processed after stripping.



At Laidlaw Road, soil excavated to be processed by archaeological team.

Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are work areas to support Project construction and include temporary camps, stockpile sites and equipment staging areas. Many of the sites addressed in the Temporary Construction Lands and Infrastructure Environmental Protection Plan are on previously developed lands.

Indigenous Monitors participated in joint inspections with the Environmental Inspector at the Skagit laydown yard. The site is being used for office facilities and as a construction yard for storage of equipment, pipe and other material during construction.

Key aspects of the inspection included housekeeping and waste management. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed and implemented at the site. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of, and corrective actions were taken during the inspection.



General housekeeping inspection at Skagit yard.

Topsoil Stripping and Backfill

Topsoil stripping continues near Road 72, near Hunter Creek. When removing soil in construction areas, required mitigation includes segregation of topsoil from root zone material, proper storage to reduce potential erosion, effective labelling and signage, and inspection of soil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the right-of-way boundaries, environmental features and TLU sites staked, prior to construction commencing. Construction activities were noted as confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues were identified.



Topsoil stripping with archaeological boundary and archaeological monitor on-site near Road 72.

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 AIAs that have been conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years. If a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified TLU area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

Near Hope off Road 24, the Indigenous Monitors participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in areas where trees were identified as potentially culturally modified. Trees found during a CMT sweep were examined by Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors on-site to collect initial information. The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Resource Specialists and Knowledge Holders of Indigenous Monitors' communities were contacted for evaluation of the tree and potential mitigation. The tree was not determined to be culturally modified. Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity.



General area of CMT sweeps.

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 requests for Project reports, input from an environmental resource specialist or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. 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	4	0	12
Fulfilled	8	-	4	-	12
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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