

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: October 2023**

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

**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, archeological monitoring, pipe installation and backfill and conducting culturally modified tree sweeps. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for October 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](mailto: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 archaeological 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, included 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.



Stockpiling lock blocks, mats and other materials for final cleanup preparation at Laidlaw pit near KP 1059.



Stockpiling lock blocks, mats and other materials for final cleanup preparation at Laidlaw pit near KP 1059.



Assessing archeological evaluation units at Laidlaw Road.

## 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 Traditional Land Use (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 more than seven years.

In the event 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 16 (near KP 1015), the Indigenous Monitors conducted CMT sweeps in a stand of young cedar trees. No CMTs were discovered during the sweep. Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity.



General area of CMT sweeps.

## Pipe Installation and Backfill

Pipe installation and backfill activities continue for Spread 5B. 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.

At KP 1044 near Road 54, the Indigenous Monitors noted mitigations for storing topsoil to reduce erosion potential, including grading, applying tackifiers and grading to reduce ponding. Inspections were focused on the excavated soil placed in the trench over the installed pipe. The Indigenous Monitors observed sand and subsoil being backfilled over the pipe prior to topsoil being replaced and ensure backfill activities are confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.



Preparing pipe to be placed into ground near Road 54.



Backfilling trench near Road 54.



Trenching near Road 54.

## Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are defined for the Project as preparatory 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 Popkum laydown yard. This temporary infrastructure site, located on the Popkum Indian Reserve No. 1, has been developed and is owned by the Popkum First Nation. The site is being used for office facilities and as a construction yard for storage of equipment, pipe and other construction material during construction of the Expansion Project in the Coquihalla Hope region.

Key aspects of the inspections included housekeeping and waste management with corrective actions noted, such as proper waste disposal and using drip trays. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed and implemented at the site.



Popkum yard inspection for general housekeeping.

## 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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