

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: January 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 21

Project Region: Fraser Valley

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 1075–1160**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining 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 impacts 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 Fraser Valley. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key Project activities in the Fraser Valley Region involving Indigenous Monitors included construction on Spread 6/7A. Activities included monitoring at heritage resource sites, Sumas River Direct Pipe Installation, Sumas Terminal, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites and watercourse crossings. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for January 2022, 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. [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

Sumas River Direct Pipe Installation (DPI)

The Sumas River Crossing will involve direct pipe installation (DPI) starting from the east and advancing to the west side of the Sumas River (BC-726). The Sumas River DPI is approximately 258 metres in length and the channel is located from KP 1112 to KP 1118 near the City of Abbotsford, BC. When complete, the casing pipe will be removed simultaneously as the installed pipe is encased in grout or bentonite prior to being tied into the TMEP system via conventionally trenched segments on either side of the Sumas River.

The Indigenous Monitors observed various environmental mitigations at the Sumas River DPI site, including but not limited to:

- Environmental feature staking and flagging: archaeological, TLU and wildlife features
- Site housekeeping: Inspection of waste segregation, recycling and that drip trays are placed under idle vehicles and machinery

No deficiencies or cultural heritage chance finds were identified during the inspection.



Pipe and access matting at Sumas DPI site.



Waste management at Sumas DPI site.

Heritage Resource Site

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 over many years of Project planning.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the implementation of Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) conducted along the right-of-way. The assessments, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, include visual inspection to identify features with predictable archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and subsurface testing (shovel testing) of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential.

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. Ongoing AIA activities continue in the Fraser Valley.



Archaeological Resource Specialist conducting shovel testing.

Environmental Features and Traditional Land Use Site

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to check on flagging/marketing and to verify buffer zones are clearly marked. As part of pre-construction activity, environmental features such as wildlife species of concern, rare plants and rare ecological communities, archaeological features, wetlands, watercourses, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental features are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced by Resource Specialist teams. The features are clearly marked so they can be appropriately protected during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected Culturally Modified Tree (CMT) flagging at Bridal Falls and TLU signage at KP 1112. The Indigenous Monitors also participated in a CMT walkthrough from KP 1075 to 1076. 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 continued to conduct 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. The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Resource Specialists and Knowledge Holders of Indigenous Monitor's communities were contacted for evaluation of the tree and potential mitigation. The engagement process with Indigenous groups was initiated to share information about the resource and seek feedback. The tree was determined to be culturally modified. The feature was flagged, a buffer was placed around the tree and continued avoidance was recommended.



General CMT area.

Sumas Terminal

At Sumas Terminal, concrete is used in many of the construction activities. For example, concrete is poured into circular frames to form the new storage tank foundations and sprayed onto rebar to create reinforcement walls around the new tank areas. During the pouring or spraying of concrete, environmental protection mitigations are implemented to isolate the concrete work and to prevent spillage of concrete or grout onto the ground or watercourses. These mitigations include ensuring all concrete work is completed during dry conditions and properly contained within sealed forms, using containments for any concrete waste storage and having spill kits available for the concrete trucks.

The Indigenous Monitor at Sumas Terminal observed the contractor prepare and perform concrete pours. Mitigations like secondary containment and localization of concrete and grout were conducted properly.



Tank concrete berm construction.



Asphalt swale constructed to help control water flow.

Wetland Monitoring

Construction will commence through some wetland areas as planned. Key mitigation during construction in wetland areas include using equipment working on mats to construct the containment berms/barriers and restriction of vegetation removal only to that area necessary for pipe installations.

At KP 1076 and 1077, the Indigenous Monitors inspected signage and boundaries and reviewed plans for bridge installation. No deficiencies were identified in this area.



Watercourse monitoring at KP 1077.



Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided 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. 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	0	2	0	0	2
Fulfilled	-	2	-	-	2
Outstanding	-	0	-	-	0

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

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