

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: July 2023**

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

**Project Region: Fraser Valley**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 1075–1165**

## **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, archaeological impact assessments, topsoil salvage, surface water pump-off, matting removal and cleanup, environmental features flagging and signage, and erosion and sediment control (ESC).

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for July 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. [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 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 KP 1127. 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 in the Fraser Valley region.



Soil from an evaluation unit sifted by the resource specialist observed near KP 1127.

## Topsoil Salvage

When removing topsoil 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 topsoil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits. Wildlife has been shown to be using soil breaks to allow for travel across the right-of-way.

The Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil salvage mitigations near KP 1127 and KP 1162. The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after topsoil stripping to identify any potential archaeological chance finds. No issues or potential chance finds were identified outside of previously identified archeological sites.



Topsoil buffered, labelled and covered near KP 1127.



Topsoil buffered, labelled and covered near KP 1162.

### Pump-Off

To keep trench excavation and other construction site areas dewatered and stable during pipeline construction, water that accumulates from precipitation or groundwater seepage is pumped off to an approved location either on or off the construction footprint.

Near KP 1098, an Indigenous Monitor observed that water accumulating on-site was pumped off to a settling containment system and filter bags. Water flowing out of the filtration system was discharged upland to a well-vegetated area. The settling containment systems were inspected and functioning as intended and no sediment loading was identified at the discharge points.



The dewatering system near KP 1098 observed functioning as intended.

### Matting Removal and Cleanup

Matting is a portable platform used during pipeline construction to create paths for equipment, to protect environmental features and avoid ground disturbance. Used on worksites and right-of-way construction to connect hard-to-reach areas (e.g., wetted areas), matting supports the weight of heavy equipment while protecting the underlying pipeline. Indigenous Monitor observations of matting removal and storage near KP 1151 and included good housekeeping practices, debris removal, proper signage and work remained within boundaries of the right-of-way. Mats removed from the area are stockpiled until required in another Project area. No concerns were identified.



Mats removed and stockpiled KP 1151.



Mat and geo cloth removal ongoing near KP 1151.

## Environmental Features Flagging and Signage

Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to ensure buffer zones are clearly flagged and staked. As part of pre-construction activities, 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. Indigenous Monitors inspect TLU and archaeological areas with a focus on sites near active construction to ensure mitigation measures are in place to protect TLU and Heritage Resources.

Indigenous Monitors inspected multiple locations, including TLU sites and archaeological sites. No concerns were identified.



TLU signage inspected near KP 1119.

## Erosion and Sediment Control

Site-specific erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from leaving the right-of-way or from entering watercourses and wetlands. Key areas where ESC measures are required can include soil excavations, exposed slopes, soil stockpiles and locations near watercourses.

On-site ESC mitigations may include sediment fences, swales, wattles, rock armouring, erosion control blankets and hydroseeding, coarse woody debris (CWD), as well as water drainage control measures.

ESC measures continue to be a major focus. Indigenous Monitors inspected erosion control blankets secured with willow stakes, rock armouring, swales and placement of CWD. No concerns were identified.



CWD installed near KP 1077.



Rock armoured swale installed near 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 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	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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