

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

---

**Month: June 2022**

**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. Activities included monitoring at Archaeological Impact Assessments, pump-off, topsoil removal and storage, erosion and sediment control, wildlife management, vegetation management and Sumas Terminal.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for June 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 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

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 by way of TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted over many years of Project planning.

The Indigenous Monitors observed Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) conducted along the right-of-way near KP 1104, KP 1125 and KP 1153. The assessments, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, included visual inspections to identify features with archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural or terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential and subsurface testing (shovel testing) of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential.

At KP 1115 and KP 1158, the Indigenous Monitors observed construction activity alongside the Archaeological Resource Specialists in a pre-identified archaeologically sensitive area. No potential chance finds were identified during inspection and construction activity.



Test hole conducted near KP 1125 during AIA activity.



Soil from an AIA test hole near near KP 1153 being sifted by the Trans Mountain Archaeological Resource Specialist.

## Pump-Off

During pipeline construction activity, to keep trench excavation and drainage ditch areas dewatered and stable, water that accumulates from precipitation or groundwater seepage is pumped off. The water is diverted to an approved location either on or off the construction footprint. At KP 1160, water accumulating in the excavated pipeline trench was pumped off to a settling containment system. Water flowing out of the filtration system was discharged upland to a well-vegetated area.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected to ensure the settling containment system was functioning as intended and that no sediment was loading at the discharge point. No deficiencies were observed.

At KP 1116, the Indigenous Monitor observed water that had accumulated in a drainage ditch was



Settling containment system at KP 1160 observed to be functioning as intended.

contained with sandbag berms, sediment cloth and polyethylene sheeting, then pumped –off-site to an approved location. No deficiencies were found.



Drainage ditch pump-off at KP 1116.

### Topsoil Removal and Storage

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.

At locations near KP 1106, KP 1108 and KP 1110, the Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring and inspecting such soil salvage mitigations. They confirmed topsoil was separated and labelled and piles remained inside the construction footprint.

The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after soil stripping to identify any potential archaeological chance finds. No potential archaeological chance finds were identified.



Topsoil stripping at KP 1110.



Topsoil salvaged from a riparian area near KP 1110 stored and covered with polyethylene sheeting with effective signage.



## Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are monitored and inspected to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to sensitive environmental features downstream. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting, geotextile fabric and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

Indigenous Monitors, alongside Environmental Inspectors, observed and inspected numerous other ESC measures on TMEP construction sites throughout Spreads 6 and 7A. Inspections were completed in areas including but not limited to KP 1110, KP 1116, KP 1117, KP 1146, KP 1148, KP 1158 and KP 1077. No deficiencies were observed.



Tackifier installed on topsoil as well as geocloth and polyethylene sheeting installed as ESC measures at KP 1116.

## Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, the Indigenous Monitors record and report wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. They also inspect signage and wildlife buffers to ensure they're effectively in place to prevent incidental contact. Indigenous Monitors also routinely observe and participate in wildlife sweeps for various species of wildlife.

Indigenous Monitors observed the on-site wildlife Resource Specialist conduct an amphibian salvage at KP 1108, KP 1075 and KP 1158, which required inspecting amphibian traps and the relocating of amphibians by the Resource Specialist to an approved designated area off the right of way (ROW). During the inspection at KP 1108, 10 green frogs were found and relocated off the ROW by the Resource Specialist.

At KP 1110 and KP 1148, the Indigenous Monitor inspected that bird sweeps had been conducted prior to clearing activity, and at KP 1078 discussed mitigations with the Resource Specialist regarding a recently discovered bird nest. Mitigations inspected included the bird nest buffer zone, flagging and signage, and that construction activity was not being conducted within the buffer zone. No issues were identified.



Amphibian trap inspected at 1158.



Bird nest buffer zone at KP 1078.

## Vegetation Management

Trans Mountain conducts routine vegetation management on the right-of-way and at facilities. Trans Mountain is responsible for managing problem vegetation including:

- Noxious weeds that pose a hazard to people, animals or crops
- Invasive weeds, which are plants introduced into the environment that threaten naturally occurring and indigenous plants.

The Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector conducted vegetation management assessments and observed herbicide spraying at KP 1093, KP 1108, and KP 1110. These types of assessments assist in identifying areas to control the spread of noxious and/or invasive weed species. At KP 1108, the Indigenous Monitor observed the spraying of herbicide on Japanese Knotweed and inspected the signage notifying of the invasive plant herbicide treatment was visible and in good condition.



At KP1108, secondary containment is used when mixing herbicide to be sprayed on Japanese Knotweed, an invasive weed species.



Signage placed after area at KP 1108 was sprayed with herbicide.

## Sumas Terminal

Work at Sumas Terminal includes the installation of a new perimeter fence and the installation of temporary infrastructure needed for construction, as well as a temporary laydown yard at the terminal on Trans Mountain property. One new storage tank will be installed within the terminal, bringing the total number of tanks to seven with a storage capacity of 890,000 barrels. A new firewater retention pond will also be built.

At Sumas Terminal, the Indigenous Monitor completed site inspections. The inspections included observing and documenting general housekeeping, waste management, erosion and sediment control measures, soil stripping and storage, concrete management, groundwater management and wildlife management. No deficiencies were observed.



Secondary containment placed under equipment at Sumas Terminal.



Photo of Sumas Terminal taken by the Indigenous Monitor on June 15.

## 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)

### CONTACT US:

Trans Mountain

✉ info@transmountain.com

☎ 1.866.514.6700

💻 transmountain.com



@TransMtn



youtube.com/transmntn



PO Box 81018  
Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0

