

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: November 2022**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 25**

**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, environmental features, pump-off, topsoil stripping and storage, watercourse crossings, erosion and sediment control, Heritage Resources, site housekeeping, Culturally Modified Trees and inspections at Sumas Terminal.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for November 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.**

## Environmental Features

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to ensure buffer zones are clearly flagged and staked. 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.

From KP 1134.700 to KP 1135.300, the Indigenous Monitors participated in a pre-construction walk-through with the Environmental Inspector and the contractor, inspecting environmental feature flagging and signage and discussing upcoming construction activities and associated environmental mitigations like fish and amphibian salvages.

Indigenous Monitors inspect TLU sites with a focus on sites near active construction to ensure mitigation measures are in place to protect Traditional Land Use. Site locations inspected included KP 1112 (Sto:loAQ21, Sto:lo2013b, Sto:lo-2339, Sto:lo780), KP 1132 (Sto:lo1614X) and KP 1135 (Sto:loAQ32). Signage was in place and the area was staked and flagged. No concerns were identified during the inspection.

## Culturally Modified Trees

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 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.

The Indigenous Monitor conducted CMT walk-throughs from KP 1080 to KP 1079 and near KP 1097. No potential CMTs were identified.



Near KP 1142, wildlife exclusion fencing was observed along BC-748a.



Environmental feature signage inspected near KP 1135.



Environmental feature signed inspected near KP 1132.



Area swept for CMTs between KP 1080.300 and KP 1079.00.

## 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 1076, KP 1077, KP 1084 and KP 1096, 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.

Near KP 1076, the Indigenous Monitor observed that topsoil was piled and shaped in a manner to shed precipitation. They also observed that sediment fencing was effectively installed around topsoil piles.

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 stripped near KP 1096 to 30 cm as prescribed by the Resource Specialist.



Topsoil pile and surrounding sediment fence observed near KP 1176.

## Watercourse Crossings

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourses are prescribed in the provincial permit and site-specific watercourse crossing plans. Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include but are not limited to biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, stream bed material, fish salvage, amphibian salvage, water quality monitoring and erosion and sediment control.

Near KP 1142 (watercourse BC750) and KP 1152 (watercourse BC766), the Indigenous Monitors observed the Resource Specialist conduct water quality sampling for turbidity upstream and downstream of construction activity. At watercourse BC766, no environmental concerns regarding water quality were observed during the time of inspection.



Watercourse BC-766 near KP 1152 flowing clear and clean.



## 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 ESC measures at TMEP construction sites throughout Spreads 6 and 7A. Inspections were completed in areas between KP 1076 to KP 1163.

Near KP 1116, the Indigenous Monitor observed and inspected the installation of coco matting on top of topsoil windrows to reduce erosion. After installation, the Indigenous Monitor observed that any excess ESC material was cleaned up and the site was left tidy, as per the Environmental Protection Plan.

Near KP 1076, the Indigenous Monitor participated in a site walk-through and observed the installation of ESC measures around the area where a borehole will be installed. No deficiencies were identified during the inspection.



Coco matting being installed on top of a topsoil windrow to prevent sluffing and erosion at KP 1116.



Near KP 1076 sediment fencing, straw wattles, and coco matting installed for ESC measures.

## Site housekeeping

Indigenous Monitors conduct regular site inspections for general housekeeping measures. This includes observing and documenting garbage and recycling disposal, scrap metal management, waste storage and secondary containment of fuel and other hydrocarbons. Secondary containment measures include but are not limited to drip trays under inactive vehicles and equipment, and drip trays placed under hydrocarbon containers like gasoline and diesel and paint aerosol spray cans.

Indigenous Monitors conducted housekeeping inspections at KP 1109 and KP 1142. Garbage and recycling receptacles were observed in good standing order and secondary containment measures were in place.



KP 1142 site inspected and housekeeping in good order.

## 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. Preparing for a high wind event, the Indigenous Monitor observed the contractor secure ESC measures, including polyethene sheeting and site housekeeping items like portable toilets.



Building of new tank at Sumas Terminal.

## 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



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 PO Box 81018  
 Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0



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