

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

**Month: April 2022**

**Project Region: North Thompson  
(Spread 3/4A and Spread 4B)**

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

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
Spread 3/4A: KP 470–696  
Spread 4B: KP 697–764**

### **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 North Thompson 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 North Thompson Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 470–696 in Spread 3/4A and 697–764 in Spread 4B and included pump station inspections, construction site housekeeping, watercourse crossings, culturally modified tree (CMT) sweeps and timber salvage inspections. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for April 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. 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.**

### **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](https://transmountain.com/covid19)**

## Traditional Land Use Sites

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.

During pre-construction survey activities, previously identified TLU areas are marked with flagging ribbon and stakes by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program. Signage is also installed to indicate to construction crews that a feature is present in the area.

Indigenous Monitors inspected TLU areas and archaeological sites to verify staking and signage remains in good standing condition. Sites inspected include but are not limited to TLU-30, TLU-31, TLU-32 and TLU-33. Ongoing monitoring by the Indigenous Monitors continues at such sites.



TLU signage in place at TLU 32. Mitigations confirmed.



TLU signage in place at TLU 30 and 31. Mitigations confirmed.

## Site Housekeeping

The Indigenous Monitors conduct inspections of the various construction areas for general housekeeping measures. This includes observing and documenting recycling and waste management and hazardous materials containment. The Indigenous Monitor observed unsecured portable toilets at KP 746 and a damaged sign at KP 747. Both items were communicated to an Environmental Inspector on-site, added to the deficiencies list and the General Contractor promptly corrected them.

The Indigenous Monitor observed effective placement of secondary containment and proper waste segregation, as well as spill kits properly stored on equipment near active watercourse crossings.



Unsecured portable washrooms at KP 746.



Down signage at KP 747.

## 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 downstream areas, including watercourses and the marine environment. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

During spring snow melt and rainfall in the region, the Indigenous Monitors alongside the Environmental Inspector checked ESC measures in construction areas. At KP 698, silt fence was undermined and at KP 744 a tear in the silt fence was found. Deficiencies were documented and communicated to the EI on-site. Corrective action was addressed by the EI and contractor.

Near KP 725, the Indigenous Monitor observed erosion and sediment control mitigations working as planned in an approved pump-off location. Silt fencing, hoses and pumps were also identified to be in good condition.



Silt fence undermined at KP 698.



Pump-off sediment containment working as intended at KP 725.

## Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, the Indigenous Monitors record and report wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. They also participate in discussions with the Environmental Inspection team relating to wildlife protection strategies and monitor and inspect that mitigation measures like environmental feature signage and buffers are effectively in place.

In April, the Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps including amphibian, migratory nesting bird and badger sweeps alongside the Resource Specialist prior to clearing and/or other construction activity. Nesting birds that require protection include species of migratory birds and those listed federally and/or provincially. Active nests require mitigation (e.g. avoidance or monitoring).



Bird sweeps KP 694



Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors attended Bird Sweep Training in April. The training covered bird recognition, behaviour, influences and impacts of construction. Nest location and identification, and best times and weather conditions to perform bird sweeps, and chance find procedures and mitigations.

Resource Specialists performed sweeps in all areas where active construction is or will soon be underway. Indigenous Monitor joined bird sweeps near KP 694 and 638.

### Watercourse Crossings

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of the watercourses are prescribed in the provincial permit and the watercourse crossing plan. 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 water quality monitoring and sediment/erosion control.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the contractor prepare and execute in-stream work at various locations. In BC-176 Cook Creek (KP 605) and BC-84 unnamed channel (KP 559), the upstream water was diverted downstream of the crossing area to maintain natural flow conditions and water quality.

The Indigenous Monitor observed and assisted with fish salvage and reclamation. Several streams completed reclamation in April. During stream bank and bed restoration, Indigenous Monitors discussed with Resource Specialists efforts made to recreate fish habitat using various sized rock and coarse woody debris. No environmental concerns or deficiencies were found during these inspections.



Prepping for isolation at BC-176 Cook Creek KP 605.



Bank restoration complete BC-85-1 KP 601.



Creek bank restoration complete at BC-173 Whitewater Creek KP 601.

## 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 and 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	0	1	0	1
Fulfilled	-	-	1	-	1
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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