

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: January 2023**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 23**

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

**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–KP 696 in Spread 3/4A and KP 697–KP 764 in Spread 4B and included temporary construction lands, right-of-way reclamation, dewatering and fish salvage, and topsoil stripping and backfill. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for January 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. 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.**

## Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are defined for the Project as preparatory work areas to support Project construction and include temporary camps, stockpile sites and equipment staging areas. Many of the sites addressed in the Temporary Construction Lands and Infrastructure Environmental Protection Plan are on previously developed lands.

An Indigenous Monitor inspected the Vavenby yard, a temporary infrastructure site near the Town of Vavenby. This site is being used for office facilities and is a construction yard for storage of equipment, pipe and other construction material.

The inspections included housekeeping and waste management, including proper waste disposal and using drip trays. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed at site. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of during the inspection.



Vavenby yard inspection KP 697.

## Reclamation

Subsoil is de-compacted to alleviate compaction caused by construction activities before topsoil replacement. Acceptable topsoil depths are confirmed by an Environmental Inspector (EI) during final cleanup. Multiple measurements are taken of topsoil replacement quality and depth. After the contractor has properly prepared the ground for seed, the area is seeded with the approved mix that reflects the vegetation profile from pre-disturbance.

Indigenous Monitors were on-site inspecting various reclamation activities, including discing for soil decompaction, topsoil replacement, confirming topsoil depth and confirmation that proper seed mixes are applied. Indigenous Monitors were engaged in conversations with crews and EIs in all stages of reclamation. No deficiencies were found.



Topsoil replacement and reclamation at KP 729.



Reclamation ongoing at KP 746.

### Finn Creek Dewatering and Fish Salvage

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream work are detailed in the Work Authorization/Permit for this region. Mitigation measures required for in-stream work 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 Monitor observed the contractor install diversion pumps and hoses used to dewater the work area of Finn Creek. Hoses were placed on plywood to reduce the potential impacts of topsoil scouring, soil erosion and water quality turbidity increases. The Indigenous Monitors observed the hoses were working as intended and water was flowing onto the plywood; no adverse environmental impacts were identified during inspection.

Indigenous Monitors also observed and assisted with the fish salvage conducted by Environmental Resource Specialists. Several fish were salvaged and released downstream of the crossing. No environmental concerns were identified.



Fish salvage Finn Creek BC 201 KP 633.



Fish salvage Finn Creek BC 201 KP 633.

### Topsoil Stripping and Backfill

Topsoil stripping, pipe installation and backfill activities continue. 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.

The Indigenous Monitors noted mitigations for topsoil piles to reduce erosion potential, including grading, separation of wetland soils from upland soils and shaping of piles to prevent erosion. Inspections were conducted for the excavated soil placed in the trench over the installed pipe. The Indigenous Monitors observed sand and subsoil being backfilled over the pipe prior to topsoil being replaced and noted backfill activities were confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.



Topsoil stripping, prep for trenching at KP 634 BC-202a.



Backfill in progress at KP 554.

## 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 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	0	2	0	2
Fulfilled	0	-	2	-	2
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

### CONTACT US:

Trans Mountain

 [info@transmountain.com](mailto:info@transmountain.com)

 1.866.514.6700

 [transmountain.com](http://transmountain.com)



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PO Box 81018  
Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0

