

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: January 2022

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

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 19

**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, soil salvage, culturally modified trees, watercourse crossings and heritage resource site inspections. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for January 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 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

Pump Station Inspections

In January, an Indigenous Monitor and an Environmental Inspector conducted environmental inspections at Blue River, Blackpool and McMurphy Pump Stations following the measures outlined in Trans Mountain's Facilities Environmental Protection Plan. The inspections included site general housekeeping, waste segregation, recycling and metal disposal, and equipment inspections (ensuring proper use of drip trays).

Indigenous Monitors followed up on preparation for shipping of historically contaminated soil from Blackpool Pump Station, which was reported on in December. A change in the plan was noted, that the contaminated soil will be hauled out in spring and has been appropriately isolated. Snow clearing and electrical work, sandblasting and coating were the primary construction activities. No environmental concerns were identified at the time of inspection.

The inspection at the McMurphy Pump Station highlighted trailers being moved west of the pump station onto an area of the right-of-way to make room for ongoing construction. A Corrective Action was submitted to the General Construction Contractor (GCC) for proper waste separation. The Indigenous Monitor followed up to ensure that this corrective action was completed. Backfill was underway on the east side of the pump station site.

The Blue River Pump Station inspection noted electrical and sandblasting/coating crews working on-site. Waste separation was inspected with no deficiencies. A large snow pile had accumulated from clearing snow that had gravel in it. The GCC had been tasked with installing erosion and sediment control measures around the pile before it melts to prevent sediment from leaving the right-of-way. The Indigenous Monitor returned to confirm completion of the corrective action.



Blackpool Pump Station KP 732.



McMurphy Pump Station KP 667.



Blue River Pump Station KP 610.7

Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

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 archaeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years. In the event a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified Traditional Land Use area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

Near KP 634, the Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in areas where trees were identified as potentially culturally modified trees (CMT). Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity. Trees found during a CMT sweep were examined by the Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors on-site to collect initial information. The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Resource specialists were contacted for evaluation of the tree and potential mitigation. The engagement process with applicable Indigenous groups was initiated to share information about the resource and seek feedback. The assessment of this resource is in progress.



Chance find CMT flagged and buffered KP634.



Chance find CMT after chance find procedure was completed and marked with snow fence KP 634.

Soil Salvage

During construction activities, Indigenous Monitors were on-site performing monitoring duties related to soils, including ensuring equipment arrives clean on-site, soil piles are placed within the survey limits of the right-of-way, soil piles are properly labelled and that topsoil and transition piles have adequate buffers.

At KP 718, Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring the salvage and placement of topsoil and subsoil and were available if any potential heritage resources or items of traditional land use interest are unearthed during soil stripping operations. During the inspection, the Indigenous Monitor confirmed the soil piles were within the surveyed limits and no potential chance finds were identified.



Soil separated and labelled at SF45 KP 718.



Soil pile inside limits of right-of-way SF45 KP 718.

Watercourse Crossings

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of the watercourses at Camp, Finn, Froth, Serpentine and Swift Creek 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 Monitor observed the contactor prepare and execute instream work at various locations. The upstream water was diverted downstream of the crossing area to maintain natural flow conditions and water quality. The Indigenous Monitor also observed and assisted with fish salvage.

Indigenous Monitors returned to these water crossings each day to observe construction and inspect environmental mitigation measures. The watercourse crossing plan was executed as intended and no unplanned events occurred during construction.



Pumps with fish screens in stream at Froth Creek BC 189 KP 622.



Downstream at Swift Creek BC 32 KP 518.

Heritage Resource Site

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 by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program. Signage is also installed to indicate to construction crews where areas are not to be entered.

Near KP 713, an Indigenous Monitor inspected TLU areas and archaeological sites to verify the staking and boundaries. The process to ensure delineation and understanding of archaeological sites and mitigation measures were reviewed by the Environmental Inspector, Indigenous Monitor, construction contractor and surveyors. The inspected sites were matted over and excavation near these sites has taken place. Ongoing monitoring by the Indigenous Monitor continues at these sites.



Preparing to mat over heritage site to mitigate impact.



Ongoing matting efforts at heritage site.

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 request 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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