

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: June 2023**

**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–KP 696 in Spread 3/4A and reclamation monitoring KP 697–KP 764 in Spread 4B and included temporary construction lands, wildlife management, right-of-way reclamation and watercourse reclamation inspection. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for June 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.**

## Reclamation

Subsoil is decompacted 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 inspected various reclamation activities in the North Thompson region, including discing for soil decompaction, topsoil replacement, confirming topsoil depth and confirmation that proper seed mixes are applied. Indigenous Monitors worked with Environmental Inspectors to ensure mitigation measures were in place during reclamation activities and that proper topsoil depths were confirmed.



Reclamation complete at KP 521.



Reclamation and regrowth Wild 35c near KP 656.

## 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 Valemount Camp during initial demobilization in June. The inspection focused on housekeeping during the work that was ongoing. No issues were identified. The Valemount Camp closed at the end of May 2023 since the construction workforce is projected to decline significantly as construction moves towards mechanical completion and work areas in the region have moved to southern portions of Spread 3/4A. The camp will be occupied by BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness for fire season support and later turned back to Trans Mountain for final closure. The Indigenous Monitor will inspect the site again when demobilization restarts.



Valemount Camp.



Valemount Camp.

## Wildlife Management

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

The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps, including raptor and nesting bird sweeps prior to construction activities between KP 489 and KP 616 on Spread 3/4A. The Indigenous Monitor communicates daily about active nests, their mitigations and swept areas on the Project footprint. All mitigations were in place during inspection.



Bird buffer in place KP 616.



Bird buffer in place KP 616.

## Watercourse Restoration Monitoring

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourses are prescribed in the provincial permits and the watercourse crossing plans, and in some cases, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) authorization. Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include but are not limited to biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, salvaging of stream bed material, fish salvage, water quality monitoring and sediment/erosion control. When in-stream work is complete, Indigenous Monitors regularly monitor watercourse crossings. Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are monitored; these measures mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas and watercourses.

Indigenous Monitors monitored the effectiveness of restorations completed for several watercourses in Spread 3,4A, including AB-85 at KP 559 and BC-227 and 227a at KP 644. The Indigenous Monitor observed site housekeeping efforts, recontour of the bank and transplant areas, including erosion control blanket, willow stakes in riparian zones, reseeding in previously excavated and backfilled areas, and rock armouring and stream bed material replacement. These mitigations were installed and working as planned. No deficiencies were identified.



Creek restoration stable after high flows at BC-227 KP 644.



Creek restoration stable after high flows at BC-227a KP 644.



Restoration complete BC-85 KP 559.

## 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)

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