

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: March 2023

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

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 24

**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, wildlife management, Foam Creek dewatering and fish salvage, and topsoil stripping and access management. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for March 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 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 Valemount Camp and yard. The camp is anticipated to be active until May 2023. It is operated by Tseesk'wem Management Services – a Joint Venture between Simpcw Resources Group and ATCO, a partnership formed specifically for the Expansion Project.

Key aspects of the inspections included housekeeping and waste management, such as proper waste disposal, fuelling procedure and using drip trays. In addition, clear access to walkways, the medical clinic and electrical panels was confirmed. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of during the inspections.



Valemount Camp inspection



Valemount Camp inspection



Fuel storage Valemount Camp

Topsoil Stripping and Access Management

Topsoil stripping and access 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 Environmental Field Guide for Access Management considers sensitive environmental features such as soils, vegetation, fish and fish habitat, and wildlife and wildlife habitat. The goal is to maximize the use of existing access to limit the need for new access.

The Indigenous Monitors noted mitigations for topsoil piles to reduce erosion potential, including grading and shaping of piles to prevent erosion. Activities were confined to the construction right-of-way.



Topsoil stripped for access road KP 525.

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 501 and KP 603 in the North Thompson Region. The IM team communicates daily about active nests, their mitigations and swept areas on the Project footprint. All mitigations were in place at the time of inspection.



General area of bird sweep KP 511.

Foam 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 isolated work area of Camp 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 a fish salvage conducted by Environmental Resource Specialists. Several fish were salvaged and released downstream of the crossing, including a Bull Trout and eight Rainbow Trout.



Fish salvage at BC 56 Camp Creek KP 543.




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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