

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: June 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 18

Project Region: Jasper to Mount
Robson Reactivation
(Hinton to Hargreaves)

Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
322–461

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining Indigenous Monitors as integrated members of its construction Environmental Inspection team. Indigenous Monitors work with Environmental Inspectors to monitor compliance with approved mitigation measures to minimize impacts to traditional resource use and cultural/heritage impacts during TMEP construction.

Operations and maintenance work, including integrity digs and sleeve replacements occurring along the deactivated pipeline segments in Jasper National Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park is not part of TMEP nor subject to TMEP Conditions. However, Trans Mountain will be including Indigenous Monitors during certain operations and maintenance work in reactivation areas as it relates to preparing for future TMEP construction activities.

This Overview Report provides highlights of the Indigenous Monitors' day-to-day work and key highlights observed by the Monitors in the Jasper to Mount Robson Reactivation region (Hinton to Hargreaves), specifically Jasper National Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activities to Indigenous groups. During this reporting period, key activities in the Jasper to Mount Robson Reactivation region involving Indigenous Monitors include Heritage Resources Contingency Plan implementation, backfilling and reclamation, and wildlife management.

The Project has a process for sharing information related to potential 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

Heritage Resource Site Chance Find

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to identify locations of features and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and Traditional Land Use (TLU) areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted in relation to the Project during Project planning.

Near Dig 40 (417.56) in the Mount Robson Provincial Park, a bone was unearthed during subsoil excavation and the Heritage Resources Site Discovery Contingency Plan was implemented. The Indigenous Monitors and the Environmental Inspector inspected the site and observed that the appropriate mitigations measures had occurred including immediate suspension of construction work in the area and a 30-metre buffer installed. The Trans Mountain Archaeological Resource Specialist was deployed to site determined that the bone was not archaeological.

[Click here](#) to read more about Trans Mountain Heritage Resources Site Discovery Contingency Plan.



Subsoil pile at Dig 40 where the animal bone was unearthed.

Wildlife Management

Mitigation measures, including wildlife sweeps, have been developed to minimize potential negative effects on wildlife in Jasper National Park and Mount Robson Provincial Park, and to protect the safety of workers related to potential wildlife interactions. In June, the Indigenous Monitor participated in wildlife sweeps, including amphibians, raptors, nesting migratory birds and ground squirrels alongside the Trans Mountain Wildlife Resource Specialist and the Environmental Inspector.

During the migratory bird window (Jasper National Park March 15 to August 31 and Mount Robson Provincial Park February 5 to September 6), bird and bird nest sweeps occur regularly. The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps and observed a buffer installed near the Dig 17 area (KP 370.879) where an active bird nest had been discovered. Work in that area, as well as near Unnamed Creek East at KP 452.72 and Sleeve 27 at 446.351 were put on hold due to nesting birds. Once the Trans Mountain Wildlife Resource Specialist determines the nests are no longer active, construction work activities can resume.



Area where the inactive bird nest was found near the Ghita Creek Access.

Backfill and Reclamation

Upon completion of pipe replacement or repairs at a dig site, the area is backfilled with native subsoil and topsoil material that had been previously excavated. Some objectives of backfilling mitigation measures include methods to prevent sinking of the previously excavated area, ensure materials are properly replaced and to re-establish surface and subsurface drainage. Materials like subsoil and topsoil should be backfilled in proper sequence to prevent the mixing of materials including any spoil, like excess bedrock.

At Dig 56 (455.314) in Mount Robson Provincial Park, the Indigenous Monitors observed the contractor backfill the dig area. TMEP Inspectors approved sand to be placed directly around the pipe to help protect it from rocks when the subsoil was backfilled. After the backfilling was complete, the contractor placed coco matting and willow stakes as part of the reclamation plan for the Dig 56 site area.

The Indigenous Monitors also visited previously reclaimed dig sites and watercourse crossing restoration sites to observe how the reclamation is progressing. One example from June is the North Snaring River Watercourse Crossing. The adjacent photos show the watercourse during in-stream activity in March 2020 and the watercourse after construction in June 2021.



North Snaring River during in-stream work while the river was dammed and water was being diverted in March 2020.



North Snaring River in June 2021 at the same location where the in-stream work was completed.

TLU and Heritage Resources Training

In June, Indigenous Monitors from each region of the Expansion Project participated in a two-hour online live training session focused on TMEP's TLU and Heritage Resources Contingency Plans, processes and communications.

The training sessions were regionally focused to incorporate common TLU and heritage resource types in the various Project regions (Alberta, BC Interior and the Lower Mainland), and participants were encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives. Sharing of Indigenous Monitor stories and experiences would highlight the resources for the team to be looking for on the landscape as construction progresses.





Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided 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 or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. Monthly 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 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Fulfilled | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Outstanding | - | - | - | - | 0 |

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

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