

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: March 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 20

**Project Region: North Thompson
(Spread 3/4a and Spread 4b)**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) Spread 4b: 697–
764 and Spread 3,4a:470**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project) 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 included monitoring and inspecting Traditional Land Use sites, spring preparedness, and erosion and sediment control measures. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for March 2021, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

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. Trans Mountain and its construction contractors are working diligently together to adhere to all advice and direction from government and health officials, while ensuring the safe uninterrupted operation of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the continued, safe construction of the Expansion Project. Measures being undertaken at construction sites include: temperature screening; following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers' orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Traditional Land Use Site Monitoring – Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

Traditional Land Use (TLU) areas have been identified through information and studies provided by Indigenous groups over multiple years of Project assessment and planning. During pre-construction activities, previously identified TLU sites, including CMTs, are marked with flagging ribbon by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program.

During the month of March, the Indigenous Monitors on Spread 3,4a and 4b performed pre-activity walkthroughs with the Environmental Inspector ensuring environmental features, including previously identified TLU sites and CMTs were clearly marked.

During pre-activity walkthroughs in March, the Indigenous Monitor on Spread 3,4a participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in areas where trees were identified that were thought to be potentially culturally modified. The Indigenous Monitor assisted with CMT assessments for these trees. The areas were flagged off and communities and Trans Mountain Resource Specialists were contacted by the Trans Mountain Indigenous Relations department for additional consultation and evaluation. Ongoing coordination is underway to assess findings.



Area near KP 745 where a walkthrough for CMTs was conducted by the Indigenous Monitor and the Environmental Inspector. No CMTs were identified.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Site-specific erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from leaving the right-of-way or from entering watercourses and wetlands during construction activities along the spreads.

The Indigenous Monitors on Spreads 3,4a and 4b worked with the Environmental Inspector to monitor and inspect various types of erosion and sediment control mitigation measures at Peavine Creek, Thuya Creek and Teepee Creek. A mitigation measure the Indigenous Monitors observed at each location was that silt fencing (a temporary sediment control device used on construction sites to protect water quality in nearby streams from sediment in stormwater runoff) was installed and functioning properly. At School Creek, the Indigenous Monitor observed coir matting used in watercourse restoration required additional securing to the ground to



Silt fencing installed at Teepee Creek.

prevent potential washout during increased flows. This observation was reported to the Environmental Inspector and was secured by the contractor.

Spring Preparedness

Mitigation measures are identified during planning for spring conditions and are implemented to address effects of spring freshet caused by the thaw of winter snow and ice. During spring freshet, watercourses increase in volume and the structural integrity of temporary bridges and bridge accesses can be affected. Erosion resulting in sediment-laden water entering watercourses is also a risk during freshet.

The Indigenous Monitors observed and inspected water flow at various locations including Canoe Creek Road 29, River, Lindquist Creek, Darlington Creek, Unnamed Channel, Thuya Creek, and Lower, Middle and Upper Lemieux Creek and School Creek. Monitoring included checking water levels under the temporary bridges and as well looking for potential obstructions, like woody debris or fallen trees, upstream and downstream of the bridges.



Monitoring of School Creek water level.

Watercourse Crossing Isolated Instream Construction

In March, the Indigenous Monitor on Spread 3,4a monitored environmental mitigation measures for construction of the Chappelle Creek watercourse crossing. At Chappelle Creek, new pipeline was placed underneath the watercourse crossing using an isolated trenched crossing methodology where water is temporarily diverted around the construction area.

Mitigation measures required for instream construction include but are not limited to: biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, topsoil/subsoil salvage, fish salvage and relocation, sediment and erosion control, dewatering, water quality monitoring for turbidity and restoration activities. The Indigenous Monitor observed the contractor prepare the creek bed at the Chappelle Creek for the removal of the isolation by replacing rip rap and washing the area to remove sediment. They also observed the removal of the isolation at Chappelle Creek and monitored the returning water flow into the watercourse.



Chappelle Creek after all isolation pumps removed and water flowing.

Regulator Meetings

In March, the Indigenous Monitors attended an online gathering hosted by the IAMC. The engagement was an online workshop organized to create opportunities for interaction between IAMC and TMEP IMs outside of in-field activities. This workshop provided an opportunity for IMs from both programs to gain an understanding of both the IAMC and TMEP Indigenous Monitoring Programs and create two-way dialogue for IMs from both programs to get to know each other and the work they do.

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 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	0	0	0	0	0
Fulfilled	-	-	-	-	-
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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