

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

**Month: May 2021**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 18**

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

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) Spread 4B: 697–  
764 and Spread 3,4A: 470 696**

### **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 (TLU) sites, Heritage Resource chance finds, environmental feature flagging, wildlife observation and management, erosion and sediment control, and pump station housekeeping inspections. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for May 2021, 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 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.**

### **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. 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](https://transmountain.com/covid19)**

## TLU Sites

The Indigenous Monitors continuously monitor TLU areas along the right-of-way, ensuring the environmental mitigations put in place by the Trans Mountain Resource Specialist crews during the pre-construction environmental flagging and staking program are still visible. These mitigations include flagging, snow fence buffering and signage. Near Watercourse 72a the Indigenous Monitor observed and participated in removal of the flagging/staking from feature SM-P1-24 that was previously identified as a potential Culturally Modified Tree (CMT). The feature had been assessed by the Indigenous Monitor and deemed non-cultural. A marker on the feature remains to demonstrate to crew members that the mitigations have been addressed.

In May, the Indigenous Monitor observed a blueberry patch near the Albreda River. They notified the Environmental Inspector and recommended that no grey water be discharged into the area if pump-off is required in future activities. Pump-off is not planned for activities near this area, however, the Indigenous Monitor will continue to observe this site. The Indigenous Monitors also conducted pre-clearing walk-throughs with Environmental Inspectors and participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan when TLU chance finds, including the identification of potential Culturally Modified Trees, occurred. These areas were buffered, and the Trans Mountain Indigenous Relations team undertook the wider notification and engagement process with applicable Indigenous groups to provide information and seek feedback.

When members of the contractor teams, Resource Specialists and Environmental Inspectors identified a feature that may have TLU or other questions arise regarding TLU, the Indigenous Monitor is notified and inspects the feature. For example, on Spread 3,4A, the Indigenous Monitor investigated a site identified by the contractor as a potential historical obsidian quarry site. The Indigenous Monitor inspected the site with the Environmental Inspector and contractor, and it was determined the site was not of historical heritage and was a former industrial site. The spill response contingency plan was enacted and the substance was cleaned up, contained and stored on-site awaiting disposal to an approved Trans Mountain landfill.



Snow fencing to be removed from a site that was fully assessed during the TLU site discovery contingency plan. Community and IM feedback deemed this feature to not be of cultural significance and the snow fence marker was removed.

## Heritage Resource Site Chance Find

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 Traditional Land Use (TLU) studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted in relation to the Project for over during Project planning.

On Spread 3/4A, the Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the Heritage Resource Site Discovery Contingency Plan for a cabin feature identified near KP 588. The Indigenous Monitor was conducting a pre-clearing walk-through with contractor. The feature was discovered, the Environmental Inspector was notified and the site was buffered 30 m. The Trans Mountain Indigenous Relations Team notified applicable Indigenous communities and a permit-holding archaeologist (Resource Specialist) was scheduled for deployment to the site for further assessments. Analysis of the feature is in progress.



Forrested area near KP 588.

## Wildlife Management

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

In May, the Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps, including amphibian and migratory nesting bird sweeps alongside the Trans Mountain Resource Specialist prior to clearing and/or other construction activity. Nesting birds that require protection include species of migratory birds and those listed federally and/or provincially. All active nests occupied by any species of bird or its eggs require protection and are to be avoided.

While participating in wildlife sweeps, the Indigenous Monitors reported wildlife observations such as moose scat on a game trail and observed buffers in place for nesting hummingbirds at Cedar Creek.



Bird nest sweep conducted near KP 616. Also monitoring for effective installation of environmental feature flagging.



## Environmental Features

Environmental features such as rare plants and rare ecological communities, wildlife species of concern, archaeological features, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental or cultural features that occur on or adjacent to the construction footprint are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced prior to commencing construction. The features are clearly marked so they can be protected during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected environmentally sensitive areas to ensure the flagging/staking and signage remains in place and the appropriate environmental mitigations are being followed when construction activity occurs near environmental features.

At the Raft River Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) Entry Pad (KP 712), after the hand tree felling had been completed, as described in the April IM Overview Report, the Indigenous Monitor observed the stumping and grubbing of archaeological site EjQx-16 as well as the installation of the protective matting. Alongside the Resource Specialist Archaeology Monitor, the Indigenous Monitor observed and monitored for potential archaeological features. No archaeological features were identified.



Stumping at the Raft River HDD Entry Pad near polygon EjQx-16.



After stumping and grubbing was complete, protective matting installed at the Raft River HDD Entry Pad near archaeological site EjQx-16.

## Pump Station Site Inspection

As part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, 12 new pump stations are being added to the pipeline system, 11 for the new pipeline and one for the existing pipeline. Pump stations are a critical component of the operations of the pipeline system. They contain electric motors to drive the pumps that maintain the pressure and flow rate in the pipeline.

In May, the Indigenous Monitor worked alongside the Environmental Inspector to conduct environmental inspections at the Blackpool Pump Station, McMurphy Pump Station and Blue River Pump Station.

Following the measures outlined in Trans Mountain's Facilities Environmental Protection Plan, the inspections included site general housekeeping, waste management, and equipment inspections (ensuring proper use of drip trays). No deficiencies were observed during these inspections.



Photo of McMurphy Pump Station in May.

## 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	1	1
Fulfilled	-	-	-	-	-
Outstanding	-	-	0	1	1

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

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