

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: July 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 22

Project Region: Yellowhead (Spread 2)

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
95–337**

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 impacts 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 Yellowhead region. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key Project activities in the Yellowhead Region involving Indigenous Monitors were focused around KP 95–337 and included sediment control monitoring, Traditional Land Use (TLU) site monitoring and conducting Culturally Modified Tree sweeps.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for July 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 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

Traditional Land Use (TLU) Sites

During construction, cultural use areas are noted along the right-of-way. Such locations have been identified during traditional use studies conducted by Indigenous groups prior to construction. As part of the Environmental Protection Plan, there is a TLU Sites Discovery Contingency Plan which outlines steps to take in the event previously unidentified TLU sites are identified during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors monitored previously identified TLU areas along the right-of-way, ensuring mitigation was in place including signage and documentation of any current use.

During an inspection, an Indigenous Monitor observed that a previously identified TLU site (TLU-14) near the Chip Lake Paddle River watershed no longer had signage properly in place. The Indigenous Monitor notified the Environmental Inspector and the signage was replaced promptly.

At TLU-26 near KP 269, the Indigenous Monitor confirmed signage in place, topsoil separated and labelled correctly, and identified plant species of personal interest near the site. No deficiencies were identified during the inspection.



Signage in place for TLU 14 at KP 140.



Signage for TLU 26 near Hinton, AB.

Sediment Control

Site-specific sediment control measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from entering watercourses. The Indigenous Monitors inspect the right-of-way periodically during clearing to ensure sediment control measures are in place.

Near TLU-18 at KP 177, the Indigenous Monitors observed workers maintaining sediment fencing that was installed. Proper installation of sediment fencing was recommended and implemented immediately by the contractor. The Indigenous Monitors identified signage and flagging and noted proper biosecurity measures being followed. There were no concerns identified at this location.



Coconut matting and sediment fencing in use.

Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to illustrate locations of and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and TLU areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years.

Indigenous Monitors participated in sweeps for CMTs at KP 95-65, near Wabamun Lake Watershed. There were no new CMTs identified; however, if there were trees identified as potentially culturally modified, the Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors would initiate the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan.



General area where CMT sweeps were conducted.

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 avoided and protected during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to check on flagging/marketing and to verify buffer zones are the correct distances. Indigenous Monitors also monitor that construction activities adhere to the boundaries of the markers. No deficiencies were observed.

Indigenous Monitors and an Environmental Inspector noted the healthy presence of big cranberry, buffalo berry, bunch berry, strawberry, raspberry, twinberry honeysuckle, muskeg tea, horsetail lily of the valley, bog birch, spruce, tamarak and other species of Indigenous interest.



Environmental feature site.

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	6	1	5	-	9
Fulfilled	6	1	5	-	9
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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