

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: March 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27

Project Region: Yellowhead (Spread 2)

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
134–337**

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 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 134-337 and included culturally modified tree assessments, monitoring environmental features, watercourse monitoring and associated mitigations for grading and water runoff activities. 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: following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; and enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

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

In the event a site or location is noted that may be a previously unidentified traditional use area, the Traditional Land Use (TLU) Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

The Indigenous Monitor 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.

An Indigenous Monitor assisted with a CMT assessment for trees found during a CMT sweep. Measurements were recorded to determine the diameter breast height (DBH), height of the tree and scar measurements. The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Communities and resource specialists were contacted for additional consultation and evaluation. Ongoing coordination is underway to assess findings.



CMT sweeps west of Hinton.

Watercourse Monitoring

Construction has been completed through some wetland areas as planned. Key mitigation during construction in wetland areas includes using equipment working on mats to construct the containment berms/barriers and restriction of vegetation removal only to that area necessary for pipe installations.

At KP 306, the Indigenous Monitors inspected signage and boundaries and confirmed use of straw wattles and geo-tech fencing. There were no deficiencies identified in this area.



Watercourse staking and signage near Hinton.

Control of Water Runoff

Drainage paths across the construction right-of-way help maintain drainage of surrounding areas and control erosion during the spring thaw. The Indigenous Monitors observe the direction and slope of the water breaks based on topography and drainage patterns. Inspections of erosion and sediment control will continue to be conducted. Indigenous Monitors worked with the Environmental Inspectors and the construction crew to ensure water filtration and silt fencing were used on-site.



Drainage paths created west of Edson.

Topsoil Stripping and Grading

At KP 333, topsoil stripping and grading activities are taking place. When removing topsoil, there are many required mitigations including the inspection of topsoil pile(s) to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

Appropriate construction equipment must also be used during topsoil stripping when frozen ground conditions are encountered.

The Indigenous Monitors have been involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil stripping mitigations. They also inspect the cleared area to investigate any potential chance finds that could be unearthed. No issues or chance finds were identified.



Grading activities west of Hinton.

<p>Regulator Meetings</p> <p>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.</p>	
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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	2	0	9
Fulfilled	6	1	2	-	7
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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