

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: September 2021**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 25**

**Project Region: BC Interior  
Spread 5A**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 806–927**

### **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 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 BC Interior 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 BC Interior Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 806 to 885 in Spread 5A and included monitoring environmental features at trenchless crossings, soil salvage activities, activities at the Black Pines Transmission Line and Traditional Land Use (TLU) and Heritage Resource sites. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for September 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.

**For more information: [transmountain.com/covid19](https://transmountain.com/covid19)**

## Soil Salvage

During construction activities, Indigenous Monitors were on-site performing monitoring and inspection duties related to soils including ensuring equipment arrives clean on-site, soil piles are placed within the survey limits of the right-of-way, soil piles are properly labelled and that topsoil and transition piles have adequate buffers.

At KP 859, Indigenous Monitors were involved in inspecting the salvage and placement of topsoil and subsoil and were available if any potential heritage resources or items of TLU interest are unearthed during soil stripping. During the inspection, the Indigenous Monitor confirmed the soil piles were within the surveyed limits. No concerns were identified.



Soil piles within limits near KP 859.



Wildlife corridors observed between topsoil piles at KP 859.

## Trenchless Construction Methods

Direct Pipe is an installation method that uses a microtunnel to minimize surface disturbance. This trenchless construction method is used to minimize impact to above-ground environmental features near Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area.

To begin, a casing pipe with a cutterhead attached to the face is pushed into the ground on a pre-determined drill path, while simultaneously excavating the soil by slowly rotating the cutterhead at the face of the microtunnel machine. Once the casing pipe is installed, the pipe is pulled through the casing pipe. The casing pipe is then pulled out while a flowable grout is inserted into the space between.

Near KP 825, Indigenous Monitors observed the above-construction method and monitored above-ground environmental features, ensuring flagging and signage remained in place. Cuttings from the drilling activities were inspected for artifacts and lithics. None were identified.



Trenchless construction methods observed at KP 825.

## 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. In the event a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified TLU area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

Near KP 927, 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. Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity. Trees found during a CMT sweep were examined by the Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors on-site to collect initial information. The area was flagged off for additional evaluation. Resource specialists and Knowledge Holders of IM's communities were contacted for evaluation of the tree and potential mitigation. The engagement process with applicable Indigenous groups was initiated to share information about the resource and seek feedback. The assessment of this resource is in progress.



General area around KP 930 where CMT sweeps were conducted.

## Black Pines Transmission Line

Construction of the Black Pines transmission line continues in a series of phased activities from the east side Highway 5 to the Black Pines Pump Station, west of the North Thompson River. Visible activities include archaeological assessments, topsoil stripping, assembling and raising the towers, and installation of conductors and wires.

An inspection was conducted by an Environmental Inspector and an Indigenous Monitor at the Black Pines Transmission Line. The inspection included observing archaeological impact assessment crews, equipment using drip trays, on-site stormwater management, soil buffers and placement locations and TLU signage. No environmental concerns were recorded at the time of the inspection.



Black Pines Transmission Line general area.



## 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	6	1	6	0	13
Fulfilled	6	1	6	-	13
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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