

## INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

---

**Month: September 2021**

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

**Project Region: Coquihalla Hope  
Spread 5B**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 990–1075**

### **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 Coquihalla Hope 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 Coquihalla Hope Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 990 to 1075 in Spread 5B and included monitoring soil stripping Traditional Land Use (TLU) mitigations, log hauling and topsoil restoration activities. 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 Stripping

When stripping soil in construction areas, required mitigation includes segregation of topsoil from rootzone material, proper storage and covering to reduce potential erosion, effective labelling and signage and inspection of topsoil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

The Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring and inspecting such topsoil stripping mitigations near KP 1002. The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after topsoil was stripped to identify any potential archaeological chance finds. No deficiencies or chance finds were identified during the inspections.



Soil stripping, grading and rock hammer activities monitored near KP 1002.

## Heritage Resource Site

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 TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted over many years of Project planning.

The Indigenous Monitor observed the implementation of an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) conducted near KP 1056. The assessment, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, may include visual inspection to identify features with predictable archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and subsurface testing of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential.

In the event that an archaeological site is found, Trans Mountain completes the applicable reporting and applies for the required permits in alignment with the *Heritage Conservation Act*. Ongoing AIA activities continue in the area.



Ongoing AIA activities near KP 1056.



Signage and roped-off area inspected near AIA activities.



## TLU Sites

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

Indigenous Monitors inspected previously identified TLU sites along the right-of-way, including but not limited to TLU-39, STOLO-73, STOLO-175 and STOLO-941, STOLO-1614. Mitigation measures in place included signage, flagging and documentation of any current use.



Monitoring previously identified TLU sites along the right-of-way near KP 1030.

## Log Hauling

Log hauling activities continued near Falls Lake Creek. Trans Mountain has a Timber Salvage Plan outlining practices around management and handling of trees cleared along the Project right-of-way. Trans Mountain is working with Indigenous communities that have identified timber salvage interests.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections to confirm the haul trucks are washed thoroughly before entering the site. This reduces the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and soil pathogens.

Indigenous Monitors work with the loader on-site to monitor log integrity. This prevents waste of merchantable timber.

In warm weather conditions, topsoil tracking is a high priority. Rutting, admixing and compaction is closely monitored while the haul trucks are on-site. No concerns were identified.



Log sorting and hauling activities near KP 998.

## Topsoil Restoration

Topsoil restoration is a key step in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition by preparing the site for further reclamation activities, such as revegetation.

Mitigation measures implemented during topsoil Restoration include;

- De-compact and break subsoils to smooth the surface for re-contouring.
- Replace topsoil evenly over all portions of the pipeline construction footprint that have been stripped to pre-construction soil depths.
- Postpone topsoil replacement during wet conditions or high winds to prevent damage to soil structure or erosion of topsoil.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected near KP 1054 during the replacement of topsoil and coarse woody debris. Good housekeeping efforts and soil handling measures were noted. No deficiencies were identified.



Topsoil and coarse woody debris placed for Oregon Forestsnail habitat near KP 1054.

## 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       | 8                                  | 0                                  | 2                               | 0     | 10    |
| Fulfilled   | 8                                  | -                                  | 2                               | -     | 10    |
| Outstanding | -                                  | -                                  | -                               | -     | -     |

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

### CONTACT US:

Trans Mountain  
 [info@transmountain.com](mailto:info@transmountain.com)  
 1.866.514.6700  
 [transmountain.com](http://transmountain.com)



@TransMtn



[youtube.com/transmtn](https://www.youtube.com/transmtn)



PO Box 81018  
 Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0

