

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: August 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27

**Project Region: Edmonton Region,
Spread 1**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 1–48**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining 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 Edmonton 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 Edmonton Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 1–48 in Spread 1 and included monitoring construction site housekeeping, wildlife management, subsoil and topsoil reclamation and wetland riparian reclamation. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for August 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 Traditional Land Use (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

Construction Site Housekeeping

Indigenous Monitors in the Edmonton region regularly conduct inspections of the various construction areas for general housekeeping measures. This includes observing and documenting garbage and recycling disposal, scrap metal management, waste storage, fuel storage and proper use of vehicle and equipment spill kits.

Waste or construction materials that are not properly disposed of or secured are flagged to the Environmental Inspectors and respective contractor site services crew for cleanup. The recycling bins are also inspected to make sure waste is properly segregated into the right categories. These include metal, wood, general waste, construction waste and bottles.

In August, Indigenous Monitors found that though the fencing and signs were in good repair, the text on the sign had faded. Indigenous Monitors repaired faded signage. No other deficiencies were identified at this time.



Signage and fencing near KP41.

Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, Indigenous Monitors participate in discussions with the Environmental Inspection team. Conversations pertain to wildlife protection strategies and inspected mitigation measures like environmental feature signage and buffers. Indigenous Monitors ensure signage for buffers is in place.

Trans Mountain has adopted Restricted Activity Periods (RAP) outlined by Environmental and Climate Change Canada. For Spread 1 the dates of RAP for raptors are March 15 to August 31. Dates of RAP for migratory birds are April 17 to August 24.

All active nests occupied by any species of bird or its eggs require protection and are to be avoided. The Indigenous Monitors observed appropriate signage in place at KP 41, ensuring construction activities do not interfere with the birds.



Bird nest buffer near KP41.

Subsoil Topsoil Reclamation

Subsoil is de-compacted to alleviate compaction caused by construction activities before topsoil replacement. Acceptable topsoil depths are confirmed by an Environmental Inspector (EI) during final cleanup. Multiple samples are taken of topsoil replacement quality and depth. When the contractor has properly prepared the ground for seed, a Subject Matter Expert (SME) is employed to seed areas with the approved seed mix that reflects the vegetation profile from pre-disturbance.

In August, Indigenous Monitors were on site inspecting various reclamation activities and were engaged in conversations with the SME and EIs in all levels of subsoil topsoil reclamation. No deficiencies were found at the time of inspection.



Harrowed subsoil KP37.



Topsoil restored and ready for seed KP43.



Seeding activity at KP27.

Wetland Riparian Reclamation

Resource Specific Mitigation Tables (RSMT) contain data from pre-disturbance assessments. This data allows Trans Mountain to determine planting requirements that will ensure habitat restoration during the reclamation of wetland and riparian zones.

Indigenous Monitors observed biodegradable coconut netting, with course woody debris (CWD), installed to function as erosion and sediment control. This allows time for the seed mixture, identified in the RSMT, to mature. When the CWD is no longer needed for stabilization, it introduces important nutrients to the landscape as it biodegrades. No deficiencies were identified at the time of inspection.



Reclamation and sediment control near KP34.




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	0	0
Fulfilled	-	-	-	-	-
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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


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