

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: September 2020**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26**

**Project Region: BC Interior  
Spread 5a and Kamloops Urban Area**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 838–879 of Spread 5a**

## **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 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 in Spread 5a and included monitoring environmental features, pipeline construction, trench excavation, trenchless crossings and monitoring right-of-way clearing.

**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. 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: temperature screening; following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers' orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

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

### Environmental Features

Environmental features that occur on or adjacent to the construction footprint are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced by Resource Specialist crews prior to commencing construction.

This may include rare plants and rare ecological communities, wildlife species of concern, archeological features, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites and any other sensitive environmental or cultural features. The features are clearly marked so they can be avoided and/or 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.



Sign and buffer for environmentally sensitive area.



Great Basin spadefoot toad markers and fencing.

### Pipeline Construction in the Kamloops Urban Area

The first piece of pipe went into the ground in Kamloops Urban Area (KUA). This segment is the first of 185 kilometres of pipe the construction contractor is responsible for in the region. The Indigenous Monitor continues to be busy working at sites near the airport in Lac du Bois and in Kenna Cartwright Park.

The Indigenous Monitor is completing ongoing inspections ensuring mitigations related to flagging and staking of the right-of-way, clearing and grading, trenching and stringing of pipe.



Stringing and welding of pipe on the KUA.

### Trench Excavation

The Indigenous Monitor met with the construction crew to discuss ditching and excavation of a trench on the KUA right-of-way.

The inspection included monitoring the workmanship and safety of the crew on-site, trenching, soil stability and monitoring the perimeter of exclusion fencing and open trench for snakes or other wildlife.



Open trench with appropriate fencing and signage.

### Trenchless Crossing

Near the airport, in the KUA, crews are preparing to cross under the railway tracks using a method of trenchless construction called an auger bore. Trenchless crossings are used to safely cross underneath roads and railways, minimizing the impact to users. These techniques are also used for many watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands.

The Indigenous Monitor participated in inspections focused on appropriate signage and flagging, and ensuring equipment was cleaned and free of vegetation and debris.



Trenchless crossing near the railway track.

### Right-of-Way (ROW) Clearing

Project ROW clearing is a key part of early construction activity and involves the removal of trees and vegetation (like Sagebrush in the KUA) in areas along the pipeline. During this process, the surveyed Project ROW is cleared by removing the trees and brush. Then the topsoil is stripped, salvaged and stored along the edge of the ROW so it can be spread back out during reclamation.

The Indigenous Monitor on Spread 5a performed inspection and monitoring of clearing activities along the ROW.



Topsoil stripping on the KUA ROW.

## 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	Number and Type of Requests				
	Project Reports/Documents	Environmental Resource Specialists	Elder/Cultural Knowledge Holder	Other	Total
Total	3	0	0	0	3
Fulfilled	3	-	-	-	3
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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