

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

**Month: October 2020**

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

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

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 990–1015**

## **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 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 989 to 1015 in Spread 5B and included monitoring erosion control measures, timber salvage, bridge installation and conducting cultural ceremonies. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for October 2020, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

**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)**

## Timber Salvage

Trans Mountain has a Timber Salvage Plan outlining practices around management and handling of trees that are cleared along the Project right-of-way. Some of the non-salvageable material cleared will be salvaged and used for reclamation. Any merchantable timber is delivered to mills or, if on private land, the landowner is compensated or provided the timber.

Trans Mountain is working with Indigenous communities that have identified timber salvage interests. In some areas, communities have identified timber that can be salvaged for teepee poles, ceremonial purposes or firewood.

During right-of-way clearing, the Indigenous Monitor has been involved in monitoring and inspecting the salvage and removal of the merchantable timber as per the Timber Salvage Plan.

In the event a culturally modified tree is noted that may be previously unidentified, the Traditional Land Use (TLU) Site Discovery Contingency Plan is implemented. Per the contingency plan, the following measures are implemented at site: the Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector are notified; the site is flagged or fenced off; the Indigenous Monitor and a TLU Resource Specialist collaborate to assess and develop an appropriate mitigation plan to be implemented on-site; and potentially affected Indigenous groups are informed of the discovery and the proposed mitigation.

The Indigenous Monitors 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. After review by the Indigenous Monitors and consulting with Indigenous community members at the site to further examine the areas, several of the trees were determined to be culturally modified. Mitigation was identified in consultation with the Indigenous participants to protect key trees during clearing that were identified as culturally modified, and others where avoidance was not possible will be saved and delivered to the local Indigenous group(s) that express an interest in them if desired.



Timber placed along the right-of-way to be processed and bucked for transport at KP 990.



Logs being decked and processed at KP 1015.



Clearing and timber salvage along KP 994 near Falls Lake Creek.

### Erosion Control

Site-specific erosion control measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from entering watercourses. The Indigenous Monitors inspect the right-of-way periodically during clearing to ensure erosion control measures are in place.

At KP 989, the Indigenous Monitors observed equipment operators using forest debris to minimize topsoil erosion. The Indigenous Monitors made note of good ground cover, signage and flagging, and proper equipment practices.



Forest debris used for topsoil cover as an erosion control measure.

### Bridge Installation

Bridges are installed over watercourse crossings and wetlands near the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area. There are several mitigation measures the Indigenous Monitors observed during bridge installation. These key activities are related to erosion and sediment control and include undertaking all construction activities that avoid or minimize erosion and the potential discharge of sediment or other substances into any nearby watercourses, wetlands, lakes or connecting draining systems.



Bridge construction with geo fabric at KP 990 near Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area.

### Cultural Ceremony

Indigenous Monitors initiated and helped organize a cultural ceremony led by Nooaitch Indian Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band and Coldwater Indian Band Elders and knowledge keepers to acknowledge construction of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project on Spread 5B south of Merritt, BC. Trans Mountain representatives were honoured to participate in the ceremony.



Traditional Ceremony held off the right-of-way south of Merritt, BC.

## 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	2	0	2	0	4
Fulfilled	2	-	2	-	4
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

