

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: August 2022**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27**

**Project Region: Fraser Valley**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:  
KP 1075–1165**

## **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 impacts 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 Fraser Valley. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key Project activities in the Fraser Valley Region involving Indigenous Monitors included construction on Spread 6/7A, monitoring topsoil removal and storage, erosion and sediment control, Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA), watercourse crossings, wildlife management and environmental features.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for August 2022, 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. [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.**

### Topsoil Removal and Storage

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

At locations near KP 1104, KP 1106 and KP 1136, Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring and inspecting such soil salvage mitigations. They confirmed topsoil was separated and labelled and piles remained inside the construction footprint.

The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after soil stripping to identify any potential archaeological chance finds. No potential archaeological chance finds were identified.



Topsoil being stripped near KP 1104.

### Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are monitored and inspected to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to sensitive environmental features downstream. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting, geotextile fabric and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

Indigenous Monitors, alongside Environmental Inspectors, observed and inspected numerous ESC measures at TMEP construction sites throughout Spreads 6 and 7A. Inspections were completed in areas including but not limited to KP 1116, KP 1118, KP 1119 and KP 1164. Near KP 1116, geotextile fabric placed around an area requiring a sump pump was inspected. The fabric was installed as a mitigation to prevent erosion sediment from entering the water accumulating in the area. Near KP 1119, the Indigenous Monitor inspected geotextile fabric placed on an access road prior to gravel being placed. The fabric is used to contain sediment from the gravel. No concerns were observed.



ESC measures using geotextile fabric near KP 1116 observed to be functioning as intended.



Geotextile fabric installed on top of an access bridge as an ESC measure near KP 1119 prior to gravel placement.

## Archaeological Impact Assessments

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

The Indigenous Monitors observed Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) conducted along the right-of-way near KP 1134 and KP 1144. The assessments, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, included visual inspections to identify features with archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural or terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential and subsurface testing (shovel testing) of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential. If 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.



Excavation unit near KP 1144.

## Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, the Indigenous Monitors record and report wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. They also inspect signage and wildlife buffers to ensure they're effectively in place to prevent incidental contact. Indigenous Monitors also routinely observe and participate in wildlife sweeps for various species of wildlife.

The Indigenous Monitor observed the Resource Specialist conduct amphibian sweeps at various construction work areas between KP 1100 and KP 1104. At KP 1102, the Indigenous Monitor participated in a wildlife sweep with the Resource Specialist for Coastal Giant Salamanders, which are protected under the Species at Risk Act. No salamanders were discovered during the inspection.



Area swept for Coastal Giant Salamanders near KP 1102. No salamanders were found.



## Watercourse Crossings

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourses are prescribed in the provincial permit and site-specific watercourse crossing plans. Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include but are not limited to biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, stream bed material, fish salvage, amphibian salvage, water quality monitoring and erosion and sediment control.

In isolated watercourse crossings, stream flow is rerouted around the natural watercourse for a short duration while trenched construction occurs across the watercourse. Once the trench is constructed and the pipe is installed, the trench is backfilled and channel bed and banks restored, and the water is restored to its natural channel. Watercourse diversion is typically limited to a few hours to a single day for smaller watercourses. During this type of construction, if the watercourse is fish-bearing, fisheries biologists salvage fish from the isolated area and release them downstream. Water quality is also monitored by Resource Specialists during construction in all fish-bearing watercourses.

Indigenous Monitors observed the contractor prepare for in-stream work at watercourse BC770F near KP 1159 and monitored the Resource Specialist conduct fish salvages. During the inspections, 245 fish of various species were salvaged and relocated downstream.



Resource Specialist conducting the fish salvage at watercourse BC770F near KP 1159.

## Environmental Features

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to ensure buffer zones are clearly flagged and staked. As part of pre-construction activity, environmental features such as wildlife species of concern, rare plants and rare ecological communities, archaeological features, wetlands, watercourses, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental features are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced by Resource Specialist teams. The features are clearly marked so they can be appropriately protected during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in pre-construction walk-throughs with the Environmental Inspector and the contractor at KP 1101, KP 1110 and KP 1143, inspecting environmental feature



Environmental feature signage inspected near KP 1095.

flagging and signage and discussing upcoming construction activities and associated environmental mitigations like fish and amphibian salvages. In addition, the Indigenous Monitor looked for culturally modified trees (CMTs). No CMTs were discovered, and no environmental concerns were identified during the walk-throughs.

Existing environmental feature signage was also inspected to ensure visibility and sturdiness at KP 1075, KP 1095, KP 1101, KP 1131, KP 1132, KP 1143 and KP 1147.



Pre-construction walk-through near KP 1101.

## Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided 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 requests for Project reports, input from an environmental resource specialist or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. 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	2	0	0	2
Fulfilled	-	2	-	-	2
Outstanding	-	0	-	-	0

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)

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 PO Box 81018  
Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0



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