

BURRARD INLET/LOWER FRASER INDIGENOUS CAUCUS REPORT

Carleen Thomas



Hello,

My name is Carleen Thomas, Member for the Burrard Inlet/Lower Fraser Region of the Indigenous Caucus of the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion and Existing Pipeline (IAMC-TMX or the Committee).

On October 3, 2018, Chief Crey, Indigenous Co-Chair of the Committee at the time, sent a letter to all communities, which enclosed a nomination form and additional information on the member nomination process. A Tsleil-Waututh Councillor nominated me.

On January 11, 2019, a letter was sent to me confirming my participation as member for a term of February 1, 2019 to March 31, 2022. For more information on the selection process, please review the [Selection Report](#) on our website.

I am from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation in North Vancouver; Tsleil-Waututh means "People of the Inlet". I was a schoolteacher and also spent 16

years as an elected Council Member for my nation. I have five grandchildren with whom I share the teachings of my grandparents. To find out more about me, please see my bio on the IAMC-TMX website.

The IAMC-TMX brings together Indigenous and government representatives to provide advice to federal regulators and to monitor the TMX project, the existing pipeline and the associated marine shipping. The Committee is made up of a 13 member Indigenous Caucus and six senior representatives from various federal departments and the National Energy Board. Together, we represent a diversity of views about the project and all parties participate "without prejudice." This means that participating in the work of the Committee does not indicate that an Indigenous community supports or opposes the project. It means all members have a shared interest in making the pipeline, expansion and marine shipping as safe as possible in order to protect environment and Indigenous interests in the lands and waters.

Since the Committee's beginning in August 2017, we have made substantive steps towards increasing Indigenous participation in monitoring of the TMX. In our first 19 months, we created a unique

Burrard Inlet/Lower Fraser Nations along the pipeline corridor

The IAMC-TMX Terms of Reference lists a total of 129 Indigenous communities that fall along the TMX and existing pipeline.



The Burrard Inlet/Lower Fraser communities are Katzie First Nation, Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Kwikwetlem First Nation, Semiahmoo First Nation and Tswawwassen First Nation.

Indigenous/Government partnership, which is focused on shared interest in protection of lands and waters, pipeline safety and respect for Indigenous rights, knowledge and traditions. We

started a work camps study to begin gathering resources that communities can use to address the potential negative impacts of work camps on Indigenous communities, specifically women and girls. We also formed subcommittees to work on key priorities with a focus on Indigenous monitoring, marine shipping, socioeconomic impacts, emergency management, engagement and grants and contributions.

In addition to being a Committee member, I am a member of the Marine Shipping Subcommittee, Chair of the Engagement Subcommittee and a member of the Grants and Contributions Subcommittee.

Here is what I have been involved with:

Stewardship of the marine environment is extremely important to all of us, but especially to coastal communities. One of the Committee's primary objectives is to support and facilitate Indigenous-led monitoring and stewardship programs that capture the interests and needs of diverse coastal Indigenous communities. Through the Marine Shipping Subcommittee, we established a venue to exchange information and discuss marine and environmental issues, which is unprecedented. We also sought opportunities to participate in related workshops, conferences and other activities to allow for a better understanding of the many considerations surrounding the development of a marine-based monitoring program. We established relationships with marine-based organizations and provided input on the operational aspects of the Oceans Protection Plan initiatives.

I joined the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee to keep apprised of the work going on at this level; to be the voice of those Nations in the Lower Fraser/Burrard Inlet; and to build those relationships my Grandfather said are so important. He said, 'They're not going anywhere, we're not going anywhere. We need to find a way to co-exist. We need to find a way to get along.' We have to work together."

Engagement with Indigenous communities, as well as with other partners, to establish good lines of communication and maintain constructive relationships is an important aspect of our work. Only through these relationships will IAMC-TMX successfully achieve its goals. Some of the work we did over the past 19 months included the development of an Regional Engagement Coordinators Pilot, the creation of an interactive forum, the Line-Wide Gathering, where community members could come together for dialogue and help

set priorities. We developed social media platforms and met regularly with community and senior government representatives. For example, I met with and shared information on the Indigenous Monitoring Training program with Musqueam leadership, so that they could make an informed decision about participating in the training.

The Grants and Contributions Subcommittee focuses on enhancing Indigenous groups' capacity in key areas including Indigenous monitoring; Indigenous inclusion in emergency prevention, preparedness and response; reduction of harm and mitigation of impacts from work camps; knowledge-gathering and information sharing; and participation in employment, training and business opportunities. The Committee invites proposals from eligible Indigenous communities on an ongoing basis and makes funding decisions.

For more information on the Committee and the work of the Subcommittees, please see our [Annual Report](#).



Carleen Thomas speaking at the “Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into Regulatory Processes in Edmonton, AB on June 11, 2019.

What is coming up in the near future?

The IAMC-TMX’s Indigenous Caucus will be hosting its second annual Line Wide Gathering from November 13-14, 2019 in Kelowna, BC. One purpose of the Gathering is to update the Indigenous communities along the pipeline route on both the work the Committee has completed over the past year and our plans and priorities as we move forward. The other purpose is to hear from the communities about their interests and concerns to inform our work.

During last year’s Line Wide Gathering held in T’sou-ke traditional territory, we received valuable observations, insights and recommendations in the following priority areas:

1. Indigenous Monitoring/Emergency Management and Response;
2. Impacts of Work Camps;
3. Community Engagement and Communications; and
4. Advice to Government and Regulators.

The full [2018 Line Wide Report](#) is available on our website.

Invitations and more detail on this year’s event will be sent to you shortly.

I hope you will be able to join us as I look forward to meeting you in person, if I have not already, and hearing your insights.



The IAMC-TMX members toured the @NRCan CanmetEnergy Research Centre near Edmonton, AB.

Researchers shared knowledge about the complexities of oil spills and how current research is informing practices that increase the effectiveness of oil spill response and clean up.