

INDIGENOUS



Advisory and Monitoring Committee
Trans Mountain Expansion and Existing Pipeline

COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER



Update from the IAMC-TMX

On behalf of the Committee we would like to thank you for your continued involvement in the work of the IAMC-TMX either by attending virtual engagement events and workshops including our Line Wide Gathering, or staying connected on our digital platforms.

Since our last newsletter, we have made significant progress on a number of fronts: the Monitoring Policy Table, the Covid-19 Task Group and on the renewal of our five-year funding mandate, which expires at the end of March 2022.

Each subcommittee has continued to drive initiatives and projects aimed at increasing Indigenous oversight of the Trans Mountain pipelines throughout the construction phase. The Indigenous Monitoring Subcommittee marked their 100th inspection in April with Indigenous IM's taking part in an emergency management exercise at the Westridge Marine Terminal. The Socio-economic Subcommittee has advanced the Temporary Work Camps and Influx of Workers Initiative and the Marine Shipping Subcommittee met virtually with representatives from 13 communities along the marine shipping route to discuss engagement, marine monitoring, emergency management and funding opportunities.

Monitoring Policy Table

In September 2019, the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and Existing Pipeline (IAMC-TMX), Canada Energy Regulatory (CER) and Trans Mountain established the Monitoring Policy Table in response to concerns raised by the Committee's Indigenous Caucus regarding the Trans Mountain Indigenous Monitoring Program. This Table represents a new way of working together to improve the system and practice of Indigenous monitoring on the Project. The Table serves as a forum to discuss issues between regulators, the proponent and Indigenous representatives outside of a formal regulatory process. The parties began by co-developing Terms of Reference to guide this work, which set out important principles, goals and objectives for the Table.

In January 2020, an Indigenous Monitoring Framework was signed that contained several short-term deliverables and longer-term considerations. These included participation and engagement, Indigenous Knowledge and transparency. The parties have made progress towards implementing the short-term deliverables. Meeting on a bi-weekly basis, the Table continues to work hard to advance the work plan.

Reports of disturbances to Sites of Indigenous Significance have raised concerns among members of the IAMC-TMX. There is a consensus that there may be opportunities for improvement in the current approach to mitigating construction impacts to Indigenous interests.

Sites of Indigenous Significance is a broad term meant to encompass both traditional land and marine resource use, and heritage resource information as well as other Indigenous site-specific interests. It is meant to highlight that protection of these interests is part of Indigenous law and requires a different policy approach.

The Table has also hosted two workshops to begin the discussions to develop a common understanding of existing policies and procedures related to Sites of Indigenous Significance and to identify issues and areas for potential improvement.

COVID-19 Task Group

In May 2020, a COVID-19 Task Group was established to address concerns by the Indigenous Caucus relating to project safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Group includes representatives from the Committee, CER, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Trans Mountain.

In September 2020, the IAMC-TMX convened a workshop to map out regulatory roles. Participants included the IAMC-TMX, CER, BC Ministry of Health, WorkSafe BC, BC Oil and Gas Commission, the First Nations Health Authority, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Occupational Health and Safety.

The goal of the workshop was to develop a common understanding of health and safety regulatory regimes that apply to TMX to prevent the spread



of COVID-19 to workers or surrounding communities. As a result, a guidance document was developed that maps regulatory roles for managing the pandemic on the project. The workshop was a success and led to the development of the [COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan](#).

The Task Group is planning to meet in the near future to determine the need for this group going forward.

Indigenous Monitoring Subcommittee

We are now over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic and Indigenous Monitors (IMs) for the IAMC-TMX have begun to work in the field again.

In April 2020, the IAMC-TMX implemented a COVID-19 health and safety plan, which requires all IMs to attend COVID safety training prior to being able to attend in-person inspections, also referred to as Compliance Verification Activities (CVA). In addition, all IMs are required to follow provincial health and safety measures along with those outlined in the [COVID Health and Safety Plan](#).

The IAMC-TMX IMs continue to plan inspections and oversight activities where they accompany regulators from the CER, DFO and Parks Canada in verifying Trans Mountain's compliance with regulations. Reports from these inspections can be accessed at: <https://iamc-tmx.com/im-program/im-reports/>

They have also begun identifying areas to conduct inspections and initiating IM-led inspections with the CER. These are some of the first IM-led joint inspections with a regulator and an exciting step forward in the CER and IAMC-TMX's partnership.

Recently, IAMC-TMX IM's completed a major milestone; the [100th CVA](#), which was an emergency management exercise at Trans Mountain's Westridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby, BC. The exercise, consisting of training and a drill, took place on April 6th and 7th, 2021. The drill included 150 participants and involved an equipment deployment and a virtual and in-person Incident



“What I like most about Indigenous Monitoring is that I get to represent my community, Chawathil, and the interests of my community. I was very honoured to be chosen, and from my perspective the environment itself chose me, so I take my work very seriously and I have a lot to learn,” said Bobbi Roberts, Chawathil First Nation, IAMC-TMX IM.

Command Post. IAMC-TMX IMs from Chawathil First Nation and Seven Generations Environmental Services took part in the historic occasion.

Another recent highlight was the first collaborative workshop for IMs from IAMC-TMX and Trans Mountain. It provided an opportunity for the IMs to gain an understanding of the others' program and to get to know each other and the work that they do.

There have also been two very productive regional virtual workshops that were designed to engage communities and discuss the work the IAMC-TMX IMs are doing – one in March in the BC Lower Mainland and one in May in Alberta. The final workshop is scheduled for June in the BC Interior. These workshops were a result of the deliverables outlined in the Indigenous Monitoring Policy Framework developed by the Monitoring Policy Table.

The Indigenous Monitoring Mentorship Group

This past March, a group of experienced IMs came together to create an IM Mentorship Group to support and mentor their fellow IMs. The IM Mentorship Group has been a huge success. The group consists of six IM mentors from across the pipeline route who bring significant experience in monitoring to provide support to other monitors, in particular new IMs with little to no previous experience.

Support provided by the IM Mentorship Group includes virtual office hours every Thursday where IMs can login to ask questions, help in preparing for CVAs and a WhatsApp group chat to ask questions in real time.

Through mentoring we are able to ensure that new IMs go out on CVAs properly trained and have a network of experience to draw upon to improve their monitoring skills.

Socio-Economic Subcommittee

The Socio-Economic Subcommittee (SESC) has been hard at work over the last year to ensure that communities are involved in monitoring and addressing social, economic, health and cultural impacts, both positive and negative, of the TMX project.

Together with Trans Mountain, the SESC identified impacts that are important to Indigenous communities with expectations that these will be tracked over time. The indicators cover key themes raised by communities including jobs, business contracts, notifiable diseases, worker accommodation issues, training, and community complaints and concerns. Applying an Indigenous lens to tracking these indicators helps the SESC direct questions to Trans Mountain and assists to ensure that negative impacts are minimized and positive impacts are maximized.

In addition to tracking impacts, the SESC is increasing Indigenous participation in the oversight of the project by initiating community-driven monitoring initiatives. This includes the recent hiring of a Community Monitor by Simpcw First Nation and the organizing of two inter-agency Socio-Economic Effects Monitoring Working Groups.

In the BC Interior, Simpcw First Nation's Community Monitor is working to design a Simpcw-focused monitoring framework. This framework will track critical social, economic, cultural and health impacts from Valemount to Barriere. Information gathered over time will be used to guide band administration policies, provide advice to regulators and Trans Mountain and inform Simpcw's engagement on any future industry development.

In the BC Fraser Valley and the AB Edson/Hinton area, inter-agency Working Groups are being struck with the aim of bringing communities and service providers together to track trends, share information, identify mitigation measures and stay up-to-date on project activities. These Working Groups are still in the early stages of development. If you are

interested in actively participating in one of these Working Groups, contact marie-luise.ermisch@canada.ca

Marine Shipping Subcommittee

The Marine Shipping Subcommittee is committed to the protection of the marine environment from the western approach to the Westridge Marine Terminal. Over the past year, the subcommittee has focused on outreach and met virtually with representatives from 13 of the 33 communities along the marine shipping route. These sessions took place through Tier 1 (Indigenous-to-Indigenous) engagement. Conversations focused on four themes: engagement, marine monitoring, emergency management and funding opportunities available through the IAMC-TMX. The subcommittee was interested in learning: how communities and leadership in the marine space would like to be engaged by the IAMC-TMX; about existing community-based marine monitoring initiatives; and about community capacity in emergency management and response.

In March 2021, Carleen Thomas, Member for Burrard Inlet/Lower Fraser, was appointed the new Chair of the Marine Shipping Subcommittee. The subcommittee would like to thank Trina Sxwithul'txw, Member for Vancouver Island Southeast, for her fearless leadership as the previous Chair. Trina will remain a valuable part of the subcommittee.

Going forward, the Marine Shipping Subcommittee will continue to focus on outreach. Through these meaningful conversations, the subcommittee is hoping to get a better understanding of where marine communities are at with respect to marine monitoring in their community. To help with this endeavor, the Subcommittee recently welcomed a Community Outreach and Relationship Specialist, Pam Jack, to aid in this endeavor.

I' e Sk we y yal, Hy step ka Siem na s ie' ye yah. E' n tha Ch a keen na kwaut.

Ta. Nee un s ulh ee Penelakut, ee Tseycum, ee, Halat, ee Lyackson.

Kwa nee tum ul na sna. Pam Jack.



My Indigenous name is Cha keen na kwaut and I come from Penelakut, Tseycum, Halat and Lyackson. I was raised with strong cultural ties to all my communities and conservation is one of my highest priorities as a kwul mukw mis t ee mukw.

“I do not take this role of Community Outreach and Relationship Specialist lightly. I feel it is important for us as Kwul mukw people to bring our voices to a table where we can state our needs and concern. We are in a position where meaningful dialogue is requested of us, it is up to us to ensure we are the voices of our ancestors and speak the way our elders taught us. In this journey, I am humbly coming before my people and respectfully asking for your help and guidance. My hands are up to you, our Siem Mistimukw to join the voices of our Mistimukw, and give your guidance and concerns for our communities. Working together as one, as our ancestor have taught us, (naut sa maut Sh kw a ul a win).”

Emergency Management

The IAMC-TMX has long recognized the importance of Emergency Management as an area of interest to Indigenous communities. The first step was the creation of the Emergency Management Working Group (EMWG) to oversee pilot projects aimed at increasing community capacity in emergency response. There is a continued need to build the capacity of communities to sit at the table with regulators and the proponent and actively participate in the response to emergencies on their lands and waters. With that in mind, the IAMC-TMX recently approved a [Terms of Reference](#) that enables the EMWG to evolve into the Emergency Management Subcommittee (EMSC).

A key player in the drafting of the EMSC's Terms of Reference is the recent hire of Jeff Eustache as Emergency Management Program Manager. Jeff comes with over 12 years experience working in emergency management with the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS). A member of the Simpcw First Nation, Jeff is a leader in providing direct support to First Nations communities addressing the emergency management impacts from seasonal flooding and wildfires. His experience working with provincial and federal agencies resulting in aligned supports to increase community safety and reduced community losses from emergency events. The EMSC is happy to have Jeff on-board and looks forward to his expertise guiding and supporting our work in communities.

As we move into spring, the EMSC is working on developing a number of community engagement events and related emergency management training. Planning is underway for a Regional Alberta Engagement in early July 2021, with two more in the works for BC - one in the Interior and one for Coast Salish communities during the summer of 2021.

Call for Proposals: *Coming soon.* The EMSC/SESC will be inviting communities to apply for Emergency Management & Socio-Economic focused funding for contribution agreements under \$50K. Please check the [Committee website](#) in the upcoming months. Information and application packages will be updated as soon as they are available.

Operations

In the summer of 2020, the IAMC-TMX established an Operations Subcommittee to improve organizational efficiency. The subcommittee focuses primarily on three streams of work: operational functions, communications and engagement and finance (grants and contributions).

Subcommittee membership is comprised of both the IAMC-TMX Co-Chairs, the CER representative, chairs from each of the IAMC-TMX subcommittees, an IAMC-TMX member-at-large and the Indigenous Caucus Director. This subcommittee has allowed the Committee to focus on high-level, strategic discussions.

Renewal

The IAMC-TMX is currently in its final year of its initial five-year funding cycle. However, the Government of Canada has committed to the Committee for the full lifecycles of the Trans Mountain pipelines.

The Indigenous Caucus is working with Natural Resources Canada, the CER and other federal departments involved in the Project to look at the future of the Committee and to develop a funding proposal as part of Budget 2022 for the next five-year cycle.

Over the last five years, the IAMC-TMX has garnered widespread input and participation from Indigenous communities along the terrestrial and marine routes, established a successful monitoring program, co-developed monitoring policy with the CER and provided valuable advice to the CER and Government in a variety of contexts as well as advocating for the interests of Indigenous communities. Going forward, the Indigenous Caucus will continue to engage with and update the 129 communities on renewal and evaluation.

