

November 22, 2018

Good afternoon,

On November 5th and 6th, the IAMC Indigenous Caucus held its first Line Wide Gathering, on T'Sou-ke traditional territory, hosted by Chief Gordon Planes. It was an opportunity for us to share with community members our work accomplished to date and to get their input on the committee's priorities moving forward.

I was glad to see such a good turnout: nearly 90 Indigenous participants joined by representatives from the British Columbia Coast Pilots Ltd., National Energy Board (NEB) and the federal government. Shawn Tupper spent his first day as the new Associate Deputy Minister for Natural Resources Canada with us at the Line Wide.

We structured the agenda around IAMC's five "Big Picture" priorities. Over the course of the Gathering, four key themes emerged from the conversations we had:

#### Building Relationships

Participants emphasized the importance of building relationships between Indigenous communities. There's much to be gained through knowledge sharing between nations. It was clear too, that IAMC has a role in being a bridge between the regulators and community members.

#### Train and Sustain

Creating long-term career opportunities for Indigenous people is a priority. Capacity building programs should be designed to provide community members with the training and certification they'll need to achieve that goal.

#### Come and Learn from Us

One of our participants recommended that the agenda for next year's Line Wide Gathering should include presentations from Indigenous communities. We were also encouraged to visit the communities and to learn from them. I look forward to these visits, and I'm glad to commit now to community presentations on next year's agenda.

#### "The elders are our map."

Integration of Indigenous knowledge, values and perspectives into our oversight of the Trans Mountain system is one of the guiding principles of the IAMC. We'll continue working on this goal, learning from communities along the way.

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## **Five “Big Picture” priorities**

**Big Picture 1:** Providing advice to regulators on policy, regulations, legislation.

The NEB Reconsideration Hearings are an opportunity for the Indigenous Caucus to provide suggestions on the conditions that will mitigate the impact of TMX on the Indigenous communities. Input was sought and received on these points:

- **Guardianship:** It continues to be a goal of Indigenous people to be not just advisors, but decision-makers in the oversight of the Trans Mountain system (existing and proposed pipelines; marine terminals and shipping).
- **Spill Response:** Community readiness and capacity - to be first on the scene when a spill occurs - is a priority for Indigenous communities. Closing the gap in equipment and training and making local knowledge an integral part of spill response, is required.
- **Marine Planning and Management:** Participants called for comprehensive coastal protection and marine use planning. IAMC could be a model for future work on broader impacts. They also noted that inland nations, such as those who fish Fraser salmon, are concerned about the marine environment too.

**Big Picture 2:** Develop and Implement a full IAMC-TMX Monitoring Program (including marine stewardship).

IAMC will “need to connect” with communities as the monitoring program expands. One way to achieve that would be with “community champions,” who could be a voice for how a community defines safety and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Participants also spoke about the importance of establishing baselines and ensuring accountability and compliance.

**Big Picture 3:** Identify and address Emergency Management (EM) priorities.

A necessary starting point is to educate community members, and mentor youth, about Emergency Management. There’s much to be learned from communities who are building EM plans (ex.: Geographical Response Plan developed by Simpcw First Nation).

Prepare, plan and exercise. Close capacity gaps in notification, training, equipment and Incident Command. Now is the time to get ready.

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Big Picture 4: Aligning IAMC's engagement efforts.

The path to relationship building is clear. Community members want face-to-face conversations in plain language, and they want their voices heard. Respect for culture and protocols and funding to build capacity are means by which the communities can ready themselves for engagement with IAMC. The conversations to come will have to take place in the spirit of Reconciliation and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It's up to IAMC to ensure that we make the best use of community members' time.

Big Picture 5: Work Camps - Impacts on Communities (e.g. protecting women and girls).

There is a range of impacts that work camps can have on a nearby Indigenous community. Of foremost concern is to increase safety for Indigenous women and girls. It's going to take work: research to improve culture and conditions in the camps; awareness training for communities and cultural training for camp workers; and developing enforceable standards of behaviour. Hiring a Cultural Liaison was one recommendation for building a safe relationship between the camps and communities.

Staff have begun working on a comprehensive report on the Line Wide. As recommended to us by participants, we'll keep a regular schedule for our newsletter.

When I look back at the Line Wide, I think of the words of our Chairperson for those two days, Grand Chief Steven Point: "When you put knowledge in the circle, wisdom comes back." We have much work to do, and I look forward to your continuing interest and participation in the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee.

Yours truly,

Chief Ernie Crey (Cheam)  
Chair, Indigenous Caucus



*(L-R): Ray Cardinal (Indigenous Caucus); Bill Adsit (Co-Chair, Socioeconomic Subcommittee); and Katie Hooper (Executive Director, Esquimalt Nation).*