

INDIGENOUS

Advisory and Monitoring Committee

Vancouver Island South Report

“I’m here to monitor.”



(L-R): On June 5th, Prime Minister Trudeau attended IAMC’s monthly meeting. He listened as all 11 members of the raised key points concerning the TMX project.

In my role as Interim Member for Vancouver Island South on IAMC’s Indigenous Caucus, I present this report.

I was selected to sit on the Indigenous Caucus at a Regional Meeting that was held in Sooke in June 2017. Indigenous communities along the shipping lanes associated with the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) attended this meeting.

There are 11 Indigenous members, as well as six senior representatives from federal departments and the National Energy Board, on the IAMC.

Indigenous members’ participation is “without prejudice,” meaning that we have members who come from communities that oppose TMX, others who support it.

But it’s not about who’s on what side of the issue. It’s about monitoring and response.

We want to prevent spills. Is Trans Mountain in compliance? Are they respecting traditional use? These are the questions that we want our monitors to ask.

My aunt has told me, that if there’s a spill, she expects me to do my job. It concerns me that about 1/3 of the Juan-de-Fuca traffic zone, out to the southwest corner of the island, is without a spill response centre. We need to change that.

At IAMC, everyone’s being listened to, respectfully. I’m a face-to-face kind of person, so come and see me if you’d like to learn more.

**Russell Chipps,
Chief,
Scia’new (Beecher Bay)**

Nations in Vancouver Island - South

The IAMC Terms of Reference lists a total of 117 Indigenous communities, from Alberta to Vancouver Island, that are potentially impacted by TMX.

The communities in Vancouver Island – South are: Esquimalt; Malahat; Pauquachin; Scia’new; Songhees; Tsartlip; Tsawout; Tseycum; and T’souke.



Greeting Prime Minister Trudeau at the IAMC monthly meeting on June 5th. The Indigenous Caucus presented five key messages to the Prime Minister. We also issued a News Release which you can find on page 2 of this report.



NEWS RELEASE

Indigenous Caucus presses Prime Minister Trudeau over purchase of Trans Mountain system.

June 5, 2018

For immediate release

The Indigenous Caucus raised five key concerns, with respect to the government's intended purchase of the Trans Mountain system.

The Indigenous Caucus' key messages to the Prime Minister:

1. The government's decision to buy the Trans Mountain system will have huge impacts on Indigenous nations in the pipeline corridor and shipping lanes. Some Indigenous Caucus members come from nations that support the pipeline, others who are opposed. But all have a shared interest in minimizing the impacts of the TMX expansion and existing pipeline.
2. The IAMC must be transformed from advising government to truly co-managing with government, in a manner consistent with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We urged the Prime Minister to work with us on regulatory changes and protocols in order to make co-management a reality.
3. If the government is going to build the TMX, then it must build it better than Kinder Morgan would have – safer, more respectful of Indigenous rights and title and treaty rights, and fairer in its distribution of economic benefits to affected Indigenous nations.
4. The IAMC must be improved to remove bureaucratic roadblocks and to support the work of the Indigenous Caucus.
5. Although IAMC is not a consultation body, we took the opportunity to urge the Prime Minister that Indigenous nations must be consulted and accommodated regarding the government's decision to buy the Trans Mountain system.

We appreciated the opportunity to have an open and forthright discussion with the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister wants to bring about real change in the nation-to-nation relationship, we want him to work with us.

-30-