

OKANAGAN REGION INDIGENOUS CAUCUS REPORT

Chief Harvey McLeod



Wáy xast sxelx?ált (Good day)

I am Chief Harvey McLeod and I am the Indigenous Caucus member representing the Okanagan region on the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion project (IAMC-TMX). I was re-elected as Chief of the Upper Nicola Indian Band in 2017. I currently serve on the Board of Commissioners for BC Housing, a provincial Crown corporation.

The members of the Indigenous Caucus are selected by Indigenous communities from 13 regions along the pipeline route and shipping lanes. I was elected to represent the Okanagan Nation on the IAMC-TMX by a Tribal Council Resolution from the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Since its inception in August of 2017, our Committee has made substantive strides towards increasing Indigenous participation

in monitoring of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX). Among other things, in our first 19 months, we:

- **Created a unique Indigenous/Government partnership** - which is focused on shared interest in the protection of lands and waters, pipeline safety and respect for Indigenous rights, knowledge and traditions.
- **Formed subcommittees to work on key priorities** - with a focus on Indigenous monitoring, marine shipping, socioeconomic impacts, emergency management,

“Our people will be in place - we’ll have boots on the ground - to ensure that our lands and waters are respected.”

engagement and grants and contributions.

- **Completed the Indigenous Monitoring Pilot Program** - Canada’s first-ever Indigenous Monitoring Program with the NEB. Released an expression of interest to include others along the route in a new Monitoring Program.
- **Participated in five major emergency management training exercises** - to identify the barriers to Indigenous involvement in emergency management and to

Okanagan Region

The IAMC-TMX Terms of Reference lists a total of 129 Indigenous communities along the pipeline corridor. The communities in the Okanagan include:
Lower Similkameen Indian Band (Smelqmix)



Okanagan Indian Band
Osoyoos Indian Band
Penticton Indian Band
Upper Nicola Band
Upper Similkameen Indian Band
Westbank First Nation

determine how we can best influence change.

- **Initiated 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.

- **Commissioned a labour demand study** – to increase awareness of economic development opportunities amongst Indigenous communities.
- **Sought the views of Indigenous communities along the pipeline route** – by hosting the Indigenous Caucus’ first Line-Wide Gathering, launching a Regional Engagement Coordinator Pilot project.

I invite you to review our [Annual Report](#) to learn more.

This past March, I hosted an opportunity for relationship building between Councillor Leona Antoine (Lower Nicola), Chief Marcel Shackelly (Nooaitch), Peter Watson (National Energy Board CEO), Naina Sloan (IAMC-TMX Co-Chair), and Kelli Kryzanowski (Director of Strategic Initiatives, BC Environmental Emergency Program) at the Upper Nicola Band office in Spaxomin.



Nicola leadership openly discussed the concerns expressed in their communities, should the Trans Mountain Expansion project proceed. Attendees were introduced to an en’owkin’wixw process that encouraged each to come to the table to join in a respectful dialogue on a difficult topic. As we know, En’owkin’wixw is an Okanagan process that brings all sides together with the intention to speak and listen carefully and find ways to resolve a shared concern.

Capacity building, Indigenous monitoring and safety of Nicola women and girls were identified as priorities. The group acknowledged that if the project is approved, things could move quickly.

Leaders questioned the capacity of communities to

be prepared to participate in joint monitoring and emergency response activities, especially with the potential flood and fire seasons approaching. Leaders also voiced a strong desire for a coordinated approach to reduce the impacts of work camps that would be located in their territory.

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:

- Indigenous Monitoring/ Emergency Management and

Response;

- Impacts of Work Camps;
- Community Engagement and Communications; and
- 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.