

## ALBERTA REGION INDIGENOUS CAUCUS REPORT

*Michelle Wilsdon, IAMC Interim Co-Chair*



Tansi,

My name is Michelle Wilsdon and I am from the Enoch Cree Nation, located just west of Edmonton, Alberta in the heart of Treaty Six Territory. I currently serve as an elected member of Council, providing leadership for the planning, development and corporate functions of the Nation.

Alberta has three Indigenous Caucus positions on the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion (IAMC-TMX). I was elected, by majority vote, to serve as the current interim Co-Chair and Alberta First Nations member on the committee on December 12, 2018.

With the recent government approval of the Trans Mountain Expansion project, our work has been focused on preparing for construction by developing capacity in Indigenous monitoring, learning about successful practices in incorporating Indigenous knowledge into regulatory

processes and engaging Alberta Indigenous communities.

The initial stages of construction of the TMX project are underway in our region. Although there are no work camps planned for our region, there will still be socio-economic impacts from the influx of temporary workers

“I believe that reconciliation is a responsibility shared by all of us and is best accomplished through principled leadership, solution-oriented action, respect-based relations and effective partnerships. The IAMC is an effective partnership that embodies these values; should the Trans Mountain project proceed, we are well positioned to ensure that Indigenous communities are meaningfully involved throughout the life cycle of the project, something that has never been done before.”

in our lands. We have a subcommittee working on strategies to mitigate these impacts. More detailed information about our subcommittees is available in our [Annual Report](#).

### **Nations in the Alberta Region include:**

Alexander First Nation (Kipohtakaw)  
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation  
Enoch Cree Nation  
Ermineskin Cree Nation  
Horse Lake First Nation  
Louis Bull Tribe  
Montana First Nation  
O’Chiese First Nation



Paul First Nation  
Samson Cree First Nation  
Stoney Nakota First Nation (Iyarhe Nakoda)  
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation  
Sucker Creek First Nation  
Sunchild First Nation  
Whitefish (Good fish) Lake First Nation / Saddle Lake Cree Nation

Indigenous communities across the route share an interest in Indigenous monitoring and oversight of the TMX project. A priority for the committee is ensuring our Indigenous Monitors are on-site during construction phases. We all want to make sure that if the project is built, it is built as safe as possible

and with the greatest possible protection for the environment and for Indigenous rights and interests.

This year we successfully launched Canada's first-ever **Indigenous Monitoring** program with the National Energy Board. This pilot program ensures the IAMC-TMX will have 'boots on the ground' during construction stage inspections - it has also led to the opportunity for other Indigenous communities to participate in monitoring along the pipeline route.

By supporting Indigenous participation and integrating Indigenous knowledge, values, and perspectives into the oversight of the project, we are helping to minimize impacts to Indigenous rights and interests.

We recently hosted a learning forum on Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into Regulatory Processes. We explored examples of successful co-management of resources and how the inclusion of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge has improved project designs and socio-economic and environmental outcomes for communities impacted by industry.



The IAMC-TMX is committed to meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations in order to integrate Indigenous knowledge, values and perspectives into the monitoring, regulation and performance of Trans Mountain activities. We have held an open house, our first Line-Wide Gathering, a community engagement session in Alberta and visited 12 communities by our Co-Chairs and other members.

These events promote an understanding of the IAMC-TMX's mandate and enable Committee members to hear the interests and concerns Indigenous communities have regarding Trans Mountain activities. Our monthly IAMC-TMX meetings generally take place in communities and we invite local representatives to attend.

In addition to my role as Co-Chair, I also participate on the recently formed Grants and Contributions Subcommittee to oversee the administration of funding

based on the decisions of the committee.

Funding for communities is available through our **Capacity Funding Program**. Our objective is to increase Indigenous participation in the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) Project and existing pipeline and to enable Indigenous groups to be more directly involved. The Capacity Funding Program is targeted to address the priorities of the Committee and the 129 potentially impacted Indigenous communities related to Stewardship, Protection, and Meaningful Participation. I invite you to visit our website for more information on the [Capacity Funding Program](#).

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.