

ALBERTA MÉTIS REGION INDIGENOUS CAUCUS REPORT

Tracy L. Friedel, PhD



Hi,

My name is Tracy L. Friedel, Member for the Alberta Métis of the Indigenous Caucus on the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion and Existing Pipeline (IAMC-TMX or the Committee).

On October 3, 2018, Chief Crey, Indigenous Co-Chair of the Committee at the time, sent a letter to communities within the Alberta Métis region, which enclosed a nomination form and additional information on the member nomination process. Following upon communities having submitted their nomination forms, I was elected to represent the Alberta Métis region for a term of three years. For more information on the selection process, please see the [Indigenous Caucus Selection Report](#).

I am a descendant of the Lac Ste. Anne Métis community located approximately an hour northwest of Edmonton. From a young age, I enjoyed accompanying my Métis family as they undertook commercial

fishing, berry picking and other traditional land use activities. These early experiences led to my love of overland travel. In 2011, I canoed most of the 1,260 km Columbia River system as part of the 200-year commemoration of David Thompson's 1811 journey to the Pacific. And in 2014, I cycled all 1,760 kms of the Yellowhead Highway, from Haida Gwaii to Edmonton, to raise funds in support of Indigenous children's care at the Stollery Children's Hospital. To find out more about me, please see my [bio](#).

"I opted to become involved as an IAMC member so as to ensure that the perspectives and local histories of Métis communities in Alberta would be rendered visible as it concerns the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and existing (1953) pipeline. The IAMC asks that First Nations, Métis and federal representatives collaborate to raise the bar on regulatory oversight regarding a specific project. I understand this to be a unique challenge and a significant opportunity."

The IAMC-TMX brings together Indigenous and government representatives to provide advice to federal regulators and to monitor the TMX project, the existing pipeline and the associated marine shipping. The Committee is made up of a 13-member Indigenous Caucus and six senior representatives

Alberta Métis Communities Along the Pipeline Corridor

The IAMC-TMX Terms of Reference lists a total of 129 Indigenous communities that fall along the TMX and existing pipeline.



The Alberta Métis communities are: Lac Ste. Anne (Gunn Métis - Local Council #55), Mountain Métis Nation Association, Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement, Kikino Métis Settlement, Métis Nation of Alberta, East Prairie Métis Settlement and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4.

from various federal departments and the National Energy Board (as of late August 2019, now the Canadian Energy Regulator). Together, we represent a diversity of views about the project and all parties participate on the IAMC on a "without prejudice" basis. This means that being directly involved in the

work of the Committee does not indicate that an Indigenous community supports or opposes the project. It simply means that all Committee members have a shared interest in making the pipeline, expansion and marine shipping as safe as possible in order to protect the environment and in particular, Indigenous interests in those lands and waters subject to the Trans Mountain Expansion and Existing Pipeline.

Since the Committee's inception in August 2017, we have made substantive strides towards increasing Indigenous participation in monitoring of the TMX. In our first 19 months, we have worked hard to create a unique Indigenous/Government partnership focused on shared interest in protection of lands and waters, pipeline safety and respect for Indigenous rights, knowledge and traditions. We initiated a work camps study to begin gathering resources that Indigenous communities can use to address the potential negative impacts of work camps and influx of temporary workers on their members, including women and girls. We also formed subcommittees to work on key priorities, with a particular focus on Indigenous monitoring, marine shipping, socioeconomic effects, emergency management, engagement and grants and contributions.

In addition to being a Committee member, I am Co-Chair of the Socioeconomic Subcommittee and a member of the Engagement Subcommittee and Grants and Contributions Subcommittee.

The work of the Socioeconomic Subcommittee is focused on supporting potentially affected Indigenous communities in two main areas: 1) monitoring and addressing the effects of pipeline construction work camps and influx of temporary workers on Indigenous communities, including as this concerns Indigenous women and girls; and 2) monitoring the economic participation of Indigenous communities in TMX construction activities (procurement, employment, and training). In early 2018, we began laying the foundation with regulators and government to more carefully consider the social and cultural effects of work camps on Indigenous communities. In late summer 2019, we launched an applied research project that focuses on understanding the concerns that affected Indigenous communities have regarding the establishment of work camps in their areas and a review of company policies and regulator conditions



The Socioeconomic Subcommittee of the IAMC-TMX

regarding Trans Mountain Corporation's worker accommodation strategy and comparing these to local, national and international standards. The intention of this work is to mitigate potential adverse impacts and optimize potential positive benefits to Indigenous communities.

Through the Engagement Subcommittee, in 2018 we established a Regional Engagement Coordinator (EC) pilot project in two locations: the Burrard Inlet/Lower Fraser region and the Alberta First Nations region. The role of the EC's is to work with the Indigenous Caucus member in those regions to create opportunities for two-way communication between communities and the Committee. The pilot project is currently undergoing an independent assessment, following which a determination will be made as to how to roll out engagement support to other regions. In addition, the Committee funded a Nation-led engagement project to enhance engagement between a third region's Indigenous Caucus member and communities in that region.

The Grants and Contributions Subcommittee focuses on enhancing Indigenous groups' capacity in key areas including Indigenous monitoring; Indigenous inclusion in emergency prevention, preparedness and response; reduction of harm and enhancement of benefits from work camps; knowledge-gathering and information sharing and; participation in employment, training and business opportunities. The Committee invites proposals from eligible Indigenous communities on an ongoing basis and processes have been established through which transparent funding decisions can be made.



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 regarding our current and future work.

For more information on the Committee and the work of the Subcommittees, please see our [Annual Report](#).

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 work the Committee has completed over the past year and plans and priorities going forward. The other purpose is to hear directly from Indigenous communities regarding their interests and concerns as this does serve to inform our future 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.

