

Trina Sxwithul'txw

Member for the Vancouver Island Southeast



Hi,

My name is Trina Sxwithul'txw, Member for the Vancouver Island Southeast 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 all communities, which enclosed a nomination form and additional information on the member nomination process. In February 2019, Chiefs of Halalt, Stz'uminus and Penelakut nations supported my nomination and I was elected to represent the region for a term of three years starting February 1, 2019. For more information on the selection process, please visit the [Indigenous Caucus Selection Report](#).

I am from the Penelakut Tribe, located in the Gulf Islands just outside Chemainus, BC. My family is from the Penelakut and Cowichan

Tribes and I am a proud single mother of two amazing children. For the past 8 years, I have worked as an independent consultant in project management and negotiations. I am currently based in Beecher Bay, BC. My recent focus has been ocean-based drawing me into the working group that assisted in the development of the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee. I have also been involved in the negotiations for the spill response base with Western Canadian Marine Response Corporation located in the Beecher Bay First Nation

“We are securing a future that provides for honest and positive change.”

territory. To find out more about me, please see my [bio](#) on the IAMC-TMX website.

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 from various federal departments and the National Energy Board. Together, we represent a diversity of views about the project and all parties participate “without prejudice.” This means that participating in the

Vancouver Island Southeast nations 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 Vancouver Island Southeast nations communities are: Cowichan Tribes,



Lake Cowichan First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nation, Halalt First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation and Stz'uminus (Chemainus) First Nation.

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

Since the Committee's inception in August 2017, substantive strides have been made towards increasing Indigenous participation in monitoring of the TMX. In our first 19 months, a unique Indigenous/Government partnership was created, which is focused on shared interest in protection of lands and waters, pipeline safety and respect for Indigenous rights, knowledge and traditions. A work camps study was initiated to begin gathering resources that communities can use to address the potential negative impacts of work camps on Indigenous communities, specifically women and girls. Subcommittees were formed to work on key priorities with a focus on Indigenous monitoring, marine shipping, socioeconomic impacts, emergency management, engagement and grants and contributions.

In addition to being a Committee member, I am Co-Chair of the Marine Shipping Subcommittee and hold a standing place as a member of the Grants and Contributions Subcommittee.

Stewardship of the marine environment is extremely important to all of us, but especially to coastal communities. One of the Committee's primary objectives is to support and facilitate Indigenous-led monitoring and stewardship programs that capture the interests and needs of diverse coastal Indigenous communities. Through the Marine Shipping Subcommittee, a venue was established to exchange information and discuss marine and environmental issues, which is unprecedented. Opportunities were also sought to participate in related workshops, conferences and other activities to allow for a better understanding of the many considerations surrounding the development of a marine-based monitoring program. Relationships were established with marine-based organizations and provided input on the operational aspects of the Oceans Protection Plan initiatives.

“Our waters come with teachings of discipline and respect. They give us nourishment; they cleanse us, and connect us to our ancestors before us. We have an obligation to protect this precious resource.”

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 mitigation of impacts 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 makes funding decisions.

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 and through the marine waters 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
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.