

COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

July 2020



Trans Mountain Pipeline water crossing location near Merritt, BC.

Update from the IAMC-TMX on the work of the Committee

On behalf of the Committee, we would like to wish you and your loved ones well during these unprecedented times.

The Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and Existing Pipeline (IAMC-TMX) is monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely. We are taking steps to do our part in responding to the public health crisis while advancing the work of the Committee. Our first priority is the health and safety of our communities, families and workplaces.

Following advice and recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Committee Members and employees are working from home in support of social distancing. Committee and Subcommittee meetings have been proceeding through use of videoconference.

We are constantly monitoring the guidelines from health officials and will update our business processes accordingly. We will do everything in our power to protect communities, Indigenous peoples and our workforce.

Please go to our [2019 Line Wide Report](#), which includes the valuable observations, insights and recommendations we received throughout the two-day Gathering in November 2019.

Indigenous Monitoring

Indigenous oversight continues during COVID-19

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, the IAMC-TMX has been working closely with federal regulators to maintain Indigenous participation in oversight of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project while protecting the safety of individuals, their families, and communities.

In the immediate response to the pandemic, the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) and IAMC-TMX adjusted the format of inspections to reduce in-person interactions. These inspections, also called compliance verification activities, generally took the form of videoconferences with Trans Mountain (TMC) to review plans and reports as well as photos and videos from active construction sites. IAMC-

TMX Indigenous Monitors were also able to submit information requests and verify compliance with plans and commitment through virtual inspections.

[Read the reports from IAMC-TMX Indigenous Monitors](#)

The Indigenous members of the IAMC-TMX understand the importance of Indigenous boots on the ground and eyes on the water, and so advocated early and often for a quick and safe return to in-field inspections. To support this return, the IAMC-TMX hired a well-respected company, BEHR Integrated Solutions, to support the development of a COVID-19-specific occupational health and safety plan and associated training. The plan is being co-developed with federal regulators and partner Indigenous communities and organizations that employ the IAMC Indigenous Monitors. The IAMC-TMX has resumed in-field inspections with this plan since June and have completed four in-field inspections to date.

Integrating Indigenous values into planning compliance verification activities

Indigenous communities may have different perspectives on what construction activities are important to monitor. This is why the IAMC-TMX is also working closely with federal regulators and Indigenous communities to make sure that Indigenous values guide when, where, what, and how regulators and Indigenous Monitors conduct inspections. The IAMC-TMX has begun to meet regularly with federal regulators to jointly plan the timing, scope, and locations of compliance verification activities to ensure Indigenous concerns and interests are



IAMC-TMX and CER Indigenous Monitor Training, Merritt, BC, October 2019

addressed through ongoing monitoring and oversight.

Recently, the IAMC-TMX and CER conducted the first inspection activity driven by Indigenous values and a specific request from the

IAMC: an environmental inspection of the horizontal directional drilling being conducted under the North Saskatchewan River, an important source of drinking water for multiple Indigenous communities in Alberta.

Engaging communities in two-way dialogue as construction ramps up in BC

Project construction activity in Edmonton (“Spread 1”) and

along the Yellowhead Highway (“Spread 2”) in Alberta is paused due to “spring break-up”, a period during which the ground is too muddy and soft to move heavy equipment. Some pre-construction

activities will continue as crews prepare to return to full construction in mid-August. Activity at the Edmonton Terminal, various pump stations, and temporary infrastructure sites continues, as does reactivation work in Jasper National Park.

Construction on the Westridge Marine Terminal and Burnaby Mountain

Terminal continues, while Trans Mountain began pre-construction activities, surveying and access road construction in the Kamloops

“Indigenous communities understand that we can’t just rely on reports and measurements to ensure that our rights and interests are protected. We’re glad that federal regulators are working with us to plan for a safe return to in-field inspections so we will have Indigenous boots on the ground.”
- Raymond Cardinal, IAMC-TMX Member, Alberta First Nations and IMSC Chair

area in May. The Indigenous Monitoring Subcommittee (IMSC) participated in the kick-off for construction activities in the Kamloops Urban area (“Spread 5A”) on May 28, 2020. Full construction on segments in the BC Interior will begin in Summer 2020, pending regulatory approvals.

[Read Trans Mountain’s latest construction update and details on regulatory approvals](#)

To ensure that Indigenous communities have an opportunity to engage directly in two-way dialogue with the Committee and IAMC-TMX Indigenous Monitors that will be participating in regulatory activities, the IMSC will be launching a series of regional technical dialogue sessions over the coming months. More information is available on the website Indigenous Monitoring page.

Advocating for improvements to the system of Indigenous monitoring on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project

The CER, Trans Mountain and the IAMC-TMX have reached a joint agreement to make continual improvements to Indigenous monitoring. Earlier this year, leaders from all three organizations endorsed the initiative, which is aimed at identifying opportunities to improve Trans Mountain’s and the IAMC-TMX’s respective Indigenous monitoring programs for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project. The initiative has resulted in agreement on a framework of action, and the work to implement that framework continues with an implementation plan completed in June.

[Read more about the IAMC-](#)

[TMX’s work with Trans Mountain and the CER on Indigenous monitoring.](#)

Building confidence and capacity of IAMC Indigenous Monitors

One of the objectives of the IMSC is to build the capacity and confidence of Indigenous communities and individuals to participate in monitoring and oversight and obtain long-term career benefits. To achieve this objective, the IAMC-TMX is working on developing a community of practice where IAMC-TMX Indigenous Monitors

“The parties have not reached agreement on every issue, but we have made some important progress toward improving the transparency and capacity of both the IAMC-TMX’s and TMC’s monitoring programs.”

-Chief Harvey McLeod, Chief of the Upper Nicola Band and an IAMC-TMX member.

can exchange lessons learned and provide mentoring to one another.

The IMSC has struck a working group to focus on developing bridging programs and training frameworks for interested IAMC-TMX Indigenous Monitors to pursue opportunities as Environmental Inspectors, federal Inspection Officers, and other career paths.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Working Group (EMWG) has recently turned their attention to the impacts of COVID-19 and how it affects the capacity of Trans Mountain and Indigenous community’s ability to respond to pipeline emergencies.

Responding during a Pandemic

The EMWG recognizes the need to build sustainable community capacity over time as well as the importance of connecting communities new to Emergency Management (EM) with those communities that have significant EM experience to share.

Learning how to support communities while adhering to social distancing guidelines has driven the EMWG to launch a survey to determine each communities:

1. Level of EM preparedness, and
2. Training needs.

The group has begun to develop virtual technical workshops and information sharing webinars. The results of the survey will further guide the details of these sessions. Look out for virtual event invitations in the coming months!

The EMWG recognizes the impact that COVID-19 has had on communities as many have set up virtual EOC’s to respond to the pandemic and work to mitigate negative effects in their communities.

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Trans Mountain's Incident Command Post, Valemount Full-Scale Exercise, September 2019

Emergency Management continued...

Transition to a Subcommittee

Internally, the working group has begun to formally transition into a subcommittee. The group is considering its membership structure to ensure that the right people are at the table to guide the important work being done. Dale Friedel was recently nominated and approved to join the working group. Dale brings substantial experience and knowledge of emergency management to the table and increases the regional representation in the group representing Alberta Métis.

Call for Proposals

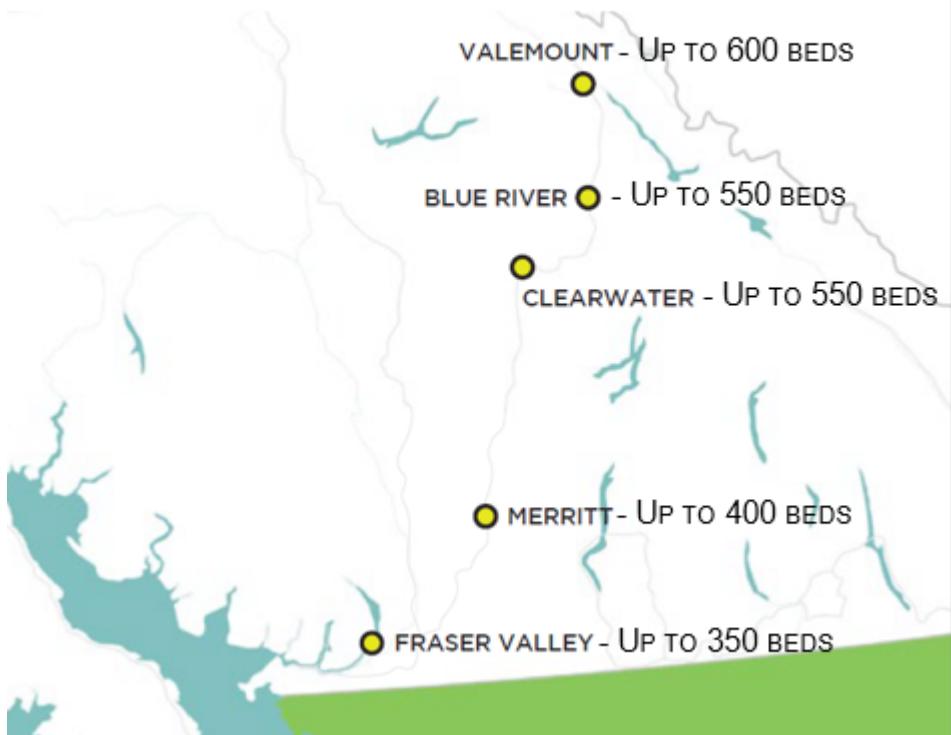
The IAMC-TMX is launched a [Call for Proposals for Emergency Preparedness and Response Initiatives](#) up to \$50,000. The EMWG assisted in the development of the application and the application guide, ensuring that the process was streamlined and simple for communities to access this funding. Members of the group have volunteered to consult with any community needing assistance with how best to apply for and utilize such funds.

Workcamps

Work camps can contribute to building economic capacity in Indigenous communities through joint ventures, sub-contracts and jobs. However, the risk of potential negative effects also exists, which is a top concern raised by multiple Indigenous communities.

IAMC-TMX Member for the Okanagan region, Chief Harvey McLeod, first raised the idea of a work camps initiative, and he and others whose regions are impacted by temporary work camps and influx of workers continue to champion the initiative through the Committee's Socio-economic Subcommittee (SESC).

Work Camp Locations





Socio-economic Subcommittee Chair Tracy Friedel and Member Marcel Shackelly speaking at a community engagement session in February 2020.

The Temporary Work Camps and Influx of Workers Initiative has been focused on four key areas:

- 1) Conducting research and analysis of TMC policies and regulations;
- 2) Increasing Indigenous participation in oversight of TMC's Socio-economic Effects Monitoring Plan (SEEMP);
- 3) Building capacity for Indigenous communities to participate in socio-economic monitoring and mitigation of impacts; and,
- 4) Documenting lessons learned with a view to developing advice to the CER.

TMC's Worker Accommodation Strategy outlines a mixed approach to house workers including:

- Five temporary full service work camps;
- Hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts;
- Apartment rentals and renting rooms in private residences; and
- RV parks.

Key Highlights:

- We put a lot of work into building a solid relationship with Trans Mountain to co-develop enhancements to the company's monitoring of social, cultural and economic impacts of temporary work camps and the influx of workers, particularly as seen through an Indigenous lens.
- The SESC started working with Simpcw First Nation, joint venture partner for three TMX work camps, to build their capacity to engage with their members, monitor impacts at the community and regional level, and to address other priorities. The SESC also began working with the Lower Nicola Indian Band to begin similar work in the Nicola region. Trans Mountain is actively participating to support this work.
- We are also exploring how to support communities in areas such as Alberta where there are temporary influxes of workers who will not be staying in camps.
- In June 2019, the IAMC-

Socio-economic indicators provide information regarding the impacts of construction in communities. They are measurements and metrics that address construction-related topics such as the use of local healthcare resources, the number of workers in the community and the type of accommodation being used. -Tracy Friedel, SESC Chair

TMX commemorated the release of the Final Report of the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) with a ceremony, and continue to reflect and act on the Report's Calls for Justice for Extractive and Development Industries through the Initiative.

Marine Shipping

The Marine Shipping Subcommittee is focused on outreach with the communities located on Vancouver Island and in the Lower Fraser and Burrard Inlet regions to learn about views on how communities would like to be engaged with and potentially participate in the IAMC-TMX, as well as learn about community interests and efforts in marine monitoring—a key area of exploration for us this year. The COVID-19 pandemic meant we had to adjust our plans to meet with communities virtually, and we hope to meet with all interested communities over the summer.

Engagement and Communications with Communities

Since March 12, work has continued to plan for the November Line Wide Gathering 2020. There is alternate scenario planning being done in the event this changes from an in-person meeting to an online gathering.

Efforts are made to leverage engagement efforts and activities across the Committee.

For example, supporting the Grants and Contribution team with reviewing nation-led engagement project proposals and working with the Communications Team to develop a comprehensive website plan to improve online presence to connect to communities.

Engagement is an on-going priority and efforts will be made to ensure activities are Nation-led and focussed on regional, community and specific topics of importance to those participating in projects.

If your community is interested in meeting with the Indigenous Caucus member for your region, we invite you to email nrcan.tmxcommittee-comitetmx.rncan@canada.ca.

Capacity Funding

Funding for communities is available through the IAMC-TMX's Capacity Funding Program. This capacity funding supports Indigenous participation in monitoring the energy infrastructure project, and addresses issues and priorities of the 129 potentially impacted Indigenous communities related to environmental protection, socioeconomic outcomes and safety.

For 2020-21, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IAMC-TMX has launched a [Call for Proposals](#) for projects less than \$50,000 per community to address priorities in Emergency Preparedness and Response. There is a streamlined application and review process, allowing funding to flow to communities for a flexible range of expenditures such as training, equipment and planning.

Communities can continue bring forward other project proposals. We will continue to assist communities, or Indigenous groups in developing their proposals and support their application process.

For more information, please e-mail us: <https://iamc-tmx.com/funding/>

Or visit our website: nrcan.gandc-setc.rncan@canada.ca



Michelle Wisdon meeting with community at the 2019 Line Wide Gathering
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