

OVERVIEW

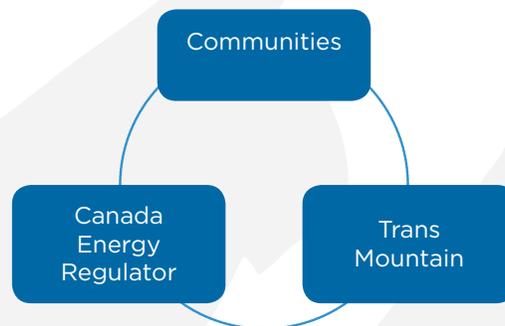
Addressing the impacts of temporary work camps and influx of workers on Indigenous communities is a priority of the IAMC-TMX. The Socio-Economic Subcommittee (SESC), formed in January 2018, is responsible for addressing this and other social, cultural and economic-related areas of interest.

Simply put, socio-economic and cultural impacts are ones that affect people and communities – the diagram below depicts the three parties with a stake in understanding and addressing these impacts:

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project and existing line is understood as creating both positive and negative impacts on communities. Trans Mountain has created plans that focus on various impacts, as well as mitigation measures that can be implemented and adapted throughout the Project with the intention of avoiding or reducing adverse impacts where possible. In addition, Trans Mountain has created and is implementing enhancement measures focused on ensuring positive economic benefit for communities. In sum, the company's Socio-Economic Effects Monitoring Plan (SEEMP) is in place to monitor and manage various effects associated with the expansion project.

Communities and their members directly and indirectly experience both the positive and negative impacts of Trans Mountain's facilities and operations, including construction activities.

The Canada Energy Regulator (CER) ensures that Trans Mountain is following all regulations and appropriately understanding and managing impacts on communities.



A specific area of socio-economic effects that is of great interest to the IAMC is temporary work camps and influx of workers. Mitigating and addressing any and all associated impacts resulting from an influx of large numbers of non-local/non-regional workers is important to Indigenous communities as this represents both economic opportunity in the form of joint venture partnerships, sub-contracts and employment opportunities, etc., but also a significant risk in the form of increased demand on social and health services and related infrastructure, increased incidences of violence with a focus on gender-based/sexualized violence, increased drug and alcohol use and trafficking, and heightened concern regarding protecting cultural heritage sites and traditional practices, etc.

“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

THE SESC FOCUSES ON FOUR KEY AREAS OF WORK:

1) Conducting research and analysis, with input from communities, of Trans Mountain's policies and regulations (e.g. Worker Accommodation Strategy, Code of Conduct, etc.) for the purpose of informing the subcommittee's work with communities.



In 2019, the SESC commissioned an evaluation of various Trans Mountain work camp policies and regulations. The analysis encompassed an understanding of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls for Action, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Calls for Justice, and global leading practices as these relate to temporary influx of workers and work camps. The analysis was also informed by a sample of Indigenous community priorities and concerns.

The evaluation found that Trans Mountain's worker accommodation policies and regulations met basic standards and included recommendations to strengthen approaches designed to mitigate potential impacts.

The resulting report and recommendations underpin all of the SESC's work and activities. The SESC continues to conduct research on key issues associated with temporary work camps and influx of workers.

2) Collaborating with Trans Mountain on the tracking of priority socio-economic indicators as an aspect of increasing Indigenous participation in oversight of Trans Mountain's Socio-Economic Effects Monitoring Plan (SEEMP).

Together, the SESC and Trans Mountain worked collaboratively to identify, through an Indigenous lens, an enhanced set of core socio-economic indicators in Trans Mountain's SEEMP.

The SESC and Trans Mountain regularly discuss these priority indicators. The SESC reviews this data to track trends and make queries of Trans Mountain as an aspect of increasing Indigenous participation in the oversight of the project.



3) Building capacity for Indigenous communities to participate directly in socio-economic effects monitoring, and to enhance their role in preventing or mitigating adverse project impacts in their territory, for this project and in the future.

The SESC is working with partners in the Fraser Valley, Nicola Valley, B.C. Interior, and Alberta (Edson/ Hinton region) with a view to:

- Supporting capacity building regarding community-based socio-economic monitoring, with a focus on assessing and responding to impacts related to temporary work camps and influx of workers.
- Delivering workshops aimed at addressing community priorities, e.g. financial planning, women's health and safety, etc.

This work is meant to position Indigenous communities to have a larger role in managing socio-economic matters in their territory, for this project and in relation to future development activities.

Currently, the SESC along with Simpcw First Nation, the CER and Trans Mountain are co-developing a pilot initiative whereby a Simpcw community-based monitor will be hired, trained and mentored to do the work associated with monitoring socio-economic effects in the B.C. Interior, including those associated with temporary work camps and influx of workers. The monitoring framework developed through this pilot will include identifying and tracking indicators of interest to Simpcw First Nation regarding economic, social, health, and cultural impacts in their territory, as well as impact to Indigenous rights. The SESC is working in three other regions to identify opportunities for similar collaborations in Alberta, the Nicola Valley and the Fraser Valley.

4) Documenting lessons learned, including for the purpose of providing advice to the CER for consideration in future projects.

The SESC plans to develop policy advice for the CER based on lessons learned from its various streams of work. This advice is intended to enhance the CER's approach to socio-economic effects as this concerns future projects.

The provision of this advice will coincide with the CER's review of its own guiding documents and policies.



“Our primary concern is keeping the people of the valley safe and keeping our relationships in tact. The project will come and go but we are here to stay.”

George Lampreau, Simpcw First Nation