

VANCOUVER ISLAND SOUTH REPORT

Chief Russell Chipps



Hello,

My name is Chief Russell Chipps, Member for the Vancouver Island South Region of the Indigenous Caucus of the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion and Existing Pipeline (IAMC-TMX or the Committee). In addition to being a Committee member, I am also a member of the Marine Shipping Subcommittee.

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. I was nominated by the T'sou-ke First Nation Chief and received letters of support from Chiefs from Tsawout, Tseycum, Pauquachin, Malahat, and Scia'new.

On February 1, 2019, a letter was sent to me confirming my participation as member for a term of February 1, 2019 to March 31, 2022. For more information on the

selection process, please visit <https://iamc-tmx.com/indigenous-caucus-selection-report/>.

I have lived in Beecher Bay since I was a young boy and I live there now with my wife and three children. I have been in the role of Chief of Scia'new for the past 16 consecutive years. Before that, I was a councillor and managed the Cheanuh Marina. To find out more about me, please see my bio on the IAMC-TMX website.

“I’m here to monitor. It’s not about who’s on what side of the issue. It’s about monitoring and response.”

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 work of the Committee does not indicate that an Indigenous community supports or opposes the project.

Vancouver Island South 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. Vancouver Island



South communities are Esquimalt Nation, Pauquachin First Nation, Songhees Nation, Tsawout First Nation, T'Sou-ke First Nation, Malahat First Nation, Scia'new Indian Band, Tsartlip First Nation and Tseycum First Nation.

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 beginning in August 2017, we have made substantive steps towards increasing Indigenous participation in monitoring of the TMX. In our first 19 months, we created a unique Indigenous/Government partnership, which is focused on shared interest in protection of lands and waters, pipeline safety and respect for Indigenous rights, knowledge and traditions. We started a work camps study to begin gathering resources that communities can use to address the potential negative impacts of work camps on Indigenous communities, specifically women and girls. We also formed subcommittees to work on key priorities with a focus on Indigenous monitoring, marine shipping, socioeconomic impacts, emergency management, engagement and grants and contributions.

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, we established a venue to exchange information and discuss marine and environmental issues, which is unprecedented. We also sought opportunities 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. We established relationships with marine-based organizations and provided input on the operational aspects of the Oceans Protection Plan initiatives.

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 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.