



What We Heard Report

Line 3 Indigenous Advisory
and Monitoring Committee
Indigenous
Monitoring Forum
2025

Stoney Nakoda Resort & Casino
Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alberta
September 18-19, 2025



Executive Summary

The purpose of the Line 3 Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC) Indigenous Monitors Forum was to bring together Indigenous Monitors, Elders, and invited guests from Nations impacted by the Line 3 pipeline to share knowledge, insights, and lived experiences, and to seek feedback from Nations on the future direction of the Line 3 IAMC.

Throughout the forum, strong consensus emerged on the need to strengthen intergenerational, land-based education; create sustainable employment opportunities; and improve communication and coordination among Line 3 IAMC, industry partners, technicians, and Indigenous Monitors.

This report summarizes the key insights, perspectives, and recommendations gathered over the two-day event. The findings will serve as a reference document to support future strategic planning and will directly inform the development of the National Indigenous Monitoring Forum Project Charter and future Indigenous Monitoring curriculum.

Helpful Acronyms

CER	Canada Energy Regulator
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
Line 3 IAMC	Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for Line 3
IAMC-TMX	Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for Trans Mountain Expansion

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge that the land on which the event took place is that of Stoney Nakoda First Nation.

The success of the Indigenous Monitoring Forum is thanks to the contributions of Line 3 IAMC members, Elders, guest speakers and cultural performers who shared their knowledge, expertise and talents with each other and attendees.

Thank you to Desi Ear and Gavin Ear from Goodstoney First Nation and Rod Hunter from Bearspaw First Nation for their opening songs and prayers. Participants enjoyed cultural performances by the Stoney Nakoda Watâga Dancers and Singers, Northern Traditional Dancers Tobias Ear and Shanda Hunter, and fiddler Brianna Lizotte from Otipemisiwak Métis Government, who performed with Ethan Brown. Teachings during dinner by the Smalleyes family and Star teachings by George Desjarlais from Frog Lake First Nation took place in the evening of Day 1.



We acknowledge Line 3 IAMC Indigenous co-chair Richard Aisaican for acting as a host and moderator with support from Line 3 IAMC Federal co-chair Anita Kuipers, Line 3 IAMC committee member Kyra Northwest from Montana First Nation for moderating panels on Day 1 and 2, and Canada Energy Regulator representative Michelle Wilsdon for moderating on Day 2.

Thank you to Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation and OneHoop Advisory Services for the keynote address, "Protecting Our Sacred Trust – The Future of Indigenous Land Stewardship." Special thanks to Elder Calvin Racette of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan, Elder Dave Daniels of Long Plain First Nation, and Elder Josephine Buffalo of Samson Cree First Nation for generously sharing their knowledge on traditional medicine and protocol with

Indigenous Monitors. The Line 3 IAMC was honoured to present gifts to the Elders following their panel on Day 1 in recognition of their wisdom and guidance.

We also extend our appreciation to Colbi Kuppenbender of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan and the Line 3 IAMC; Mike Sutherland of Peguis First Nation; Jade Dewar of the Manitoba Métis Federation; Terry Bird of George Gordon First Nation; and Carol Crowe of Indigenous Visions Inc. for sharing their valuable insights and perspectives. Thank you as well to Hollie Raicos and Kristina Zoller from the Canada Energy Regulator, and to Dr. Kisha Supernant, Director of the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology, for their thoughtful remarks.

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Line 3 IAMC members and Caucus staff, and we thank the Line 3 Secretariat and Naut’sa mawt Event Management for their support throughout the event planning process.

Lastly, thank you to all attendees for taking the time to travel and participate in the Line 3 IAMC Indigenous Monitoring Forum. We remain committed to protecting Indigenous Knowledge while strengthening and enhancing Indigenous Monitoring. Your contributions are deeply valued.

We look forward to continued engagement and meaningful dialogue with Indigenous Nations and Regions along the Line 3 corridor.

**Thank you! Meegwetch! Hai hai! Ish nish! Merci!
Nitsíniyi’taki! Philámayaye! Masi chok! Maarsii!**

Overview

We are pleased to present this report from the 2025 Line 3 Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC) Indigenous Monitoring Forum, held on September 18–19, 2025, at the Stoney Nakoda Resort & Casino, located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains on the traditional lands of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation.

Invitations were extended to over 100 Indigenous Nations across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, encouraging the participation of leadership, Elders, youth, and technical experts. The Forum was attended by 78 participants, including Line 3 IAMC members; First Nations and Métis Nation leadership; Indigenous Monitors; and representatives from the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion (IAMC-TMX), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and the Canada Energy Regulator (CER).

Day 1 featured a keynote address by Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation, who spoke on the future of Indigenous land stewardship and the importance of protecting Indigenous Knowledge. Additional sessions included a presentation on the development of an Indigenous-led conservation project, an Elders panel exploring the critical role of Indigenous Knowledge in monitoring, and a panel discussion with regulators, academics, and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers focused on knowledge sharing. The day concluded with an evening gathering that included a dinner, Powwow and storytelling performance, and Star Stories hosted by Frog Lake First Nation.

Day 2 began with a panel on bridging generations through mentorship and education, followed by a World Café session that invited Indigenous Monitors and Guardians to share insights on strengthening Indigenous monitoring programs. The day continued with a panel on community-led monitoring and concluded with an interactive session focused on identifying priorities and next steps.



Key Themes & What We Heard

Designing the Line 3 Monitoring Program to Protect the Land, Air, and Water

- Transferring knowledge and skills before the commencement of work, with assistance from Elders and Knowledge Keepers, supports mutual understanding for everyone on a project. The CER can support these connections by taking a land-based, inclusive approach with reconciliation in mind.
- Communities need a process for giving a “hard no” to projects to avoid companies pushing through; and to allow Nations to reclaim land. Further consideration is needed on how training can include education about community responses to proposals.
- Baseline data is needed to document pre-project versus post-project impacts. While Nations are doing this work, it is underfunded by proponents and the federal government. Nations require education on how to request financial support from proponents and how to seek legal advice. The procurement process is often too complex.
- Everyone involved in the project, including contractors, requires cultural training with an emphasis on respect for the land, air and water impacted by the work. They must understand the role of Indigenous Monitors.



Training for Inspection Officers

- Cultural training, including understanding protocol and Nations' data ownership, respecting the Indigenous worldview and learning to identify traditional plants and cultural sites, was highlighted as a crucial way for inspection officers to connect their work and the relationships they're building with the land and the people.
- Inspection officers¹ and Indigenous Monitors² should work as a team alongside Elders, youth and leadership. Officers need to know that every Nation is different, and that clear commitments and relationship-building are necessary to build trust before commencing work. Participants also highlighted the importance of an Elder always being on site.
- It was suggested that inspection officers liaise with the community through Indigenous Monitoring forums, information-sharing meetings and monthly professional training programs to deepen their connection to the unique geography, animals and plants of the land on which they are working.
- The Line 3 IAMC can support this work by providing onboarding materials to inspection officers and continuing engagement at the political level.

Indigenous Monitoring Skills

- Training for Indigenous Monitors should be a requirement, such as the Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources program (BEAHR), Training for Indigenous Regulatory Involvement (TIRI) and First Aid. Some participants noted that TIRI is ineffective and unengaging. Experience in the field is required to generate the expertise needed for this role. Some participants suggested that the certification process be defined by the community. Others noted that further discussion and clarity are needed about which parties are involved in the certification process.

¹ Inspection Officers are employees of the Canada Energy Regulator.

² Indigenous Monitors are hired by the Line 3 IAMC to participate in compliance verification activities to provide oversight on behalf of Line 3 Impacted Nations.

- Hands-on skills including writing, land-based knowledge, understanding protocols, people skills and using GPS are necessary to be an Indigenous Monitor. The approach of “observe, record, report” is foundational to the work.
- Indigenous Monitors should possess a deep understanding of Indigenous Knowledge, such as recognizing animal behaviour, identifying plant medicine and understanding the weather and the stars. Land-based education is crucial to understanding environmental impacts. An understanding of Treaty rights and inherent rights was also noted.
- It is important to recognize the unique skills of each Indigenous Monitor and consider this when selecting individuals for specific projects. There are different kinds of knowledge keepers: those who were brought up on the land and those who may need to learn protocol. All monitors should possess a balance of Western and Traditional Knowledge and foster a spiritual connection through ceremony.
- Mentorship for new monitors is needed from experienced monitors and Knowledge Keepers to build confidence in public speaking and other forms of communication. Valuable knowledge from Elders must be passed along.
- Indigenous Monitors should work with Land Guardians to consider the health of the land throughout the project. When sacred sites are involved, the only consultant is the Nation.
- It was suggested that there could be a database of Indigenous Monitors, Chiefs, council members, and other key individuals involved in this work.



Line 3 IAMC News and Findings Must Be Accessible to Indigenous Communities

- In-person, human-based gatherings of Nations and communities, such as the Indigenous Monitors Forums, are necessary to identify common goals, concerns and ideas. Since some Nations do not have capacity, hosting central events for learning and sharing opportunities could help fill that gap. Some attendees emphasized the importance of meeting on Reserve instead of organizing regional engagements.
- Some suggestions on how to share information included: by word of mouth, email and through all social media platforms. The contact list needs to be updated regularly.
- Other ideas for information distribution included First Nations publications, local papers and newsletters and online videos with translations in multiple traditional languages.
- Indigenous leadership needs to be able to rely on technicians to practice good communication and inform them when there is a need for engagement.
- Transparency on what the shared information is being used for is crucial. The findings and knowledge are owned by the Nations. Awareness campaigns were suggested as a way to deepen understanding within communities. Reports need to be less technical, and high-level summaries in plain language would be more accessible.



Support for Monitoring

- It was highlighted that cooperation, collaboration and offering validation to each other will foster a healthy support system for monitors. This could include a network for sharing information.
- The development of permanent, full-time employment positions, consistent training and mentorship opportunities involving youth, Elders and monitors is needed. Funding for education will support these goals. Bridging the generational gap can be done by incorporating hands-on learning as well as technology such as videos, apps and social media.
- Ceremony and protocol should be built into the monitoring process.

Fostering Relationships Between Community and Industry

- It is beneficial to have someone who walks in both worlds who can help bridge the gap between community and industry.
- Indigenous people share knowledge more naturally – over meals and on long drives, not in a board room. There needs to be more input from Indigenous people on engagement planning and how to make space for traditions and ceremony.
- There were concerns about Indigenous Monitors not being involved in decision-making, which created a lack of trust with industry. It is important to have Indigenous liaisons who can articulate the law and understand how to communicate with industry.
- It must be clear in reports that the Nation owns their data.



- It was noted that when bridging the gap, challenges can occur. For example, when identifying plants and medicines on a pipeline alignment sheet, sharing that knowledge widely could lead to overharvesting.

How Knowledge from Monitoring Can Be Used to Improve Other Energy Projects in Canada

- It was emphasized that evidence should be used to make changes in policy.
- A willingness is needed on the part of non-Indigenous entities to learn, work together and understand Indigenous protocol.
- Communities should be part of the entire life cycle of a project, including pre-engagement. The government needs to respect the Nations' ownership of information and listen when Nations say "no."
- Education and awareness need to be built amongst communities about the role and responsibilities of Indigenous Monitors. There is a need for job security, consistent employment and real career opportunities so that monitors can work across the industry, and not just on individual projects.
- There needs to be basic respect and continuous communication between all regulators. All plans, risks and hazards on a project must be communicated.
- There is a significant gap between provincial/territorial and federal jurisdictions. Only Nations with land codes can create environmental laws.
- It was noted that more training to build capacity is needed to support more workers and monitors. A Nation-based curriculum is necessary, although its development takes time and money. One suggestion was to share existing community-based Indigenous Monitoring programs so that Nations that want to

set up their own program have tools and resources to build their own.

- Practices need to be re-evaluated for continuous improvements.

Thoughts for Community Members and Lessons for the Next Gathering

- Attendees highlighted the importance of sharing knowledge and oral history and working together.
- There was discussion on how to promote environmental sciences as a career path, since this field helps give more credibility and awareness to the importance of the land.
- Participants shared helpful reminders, such as trusting in the process, celebrate milestones, keep persevering, exercising Treaty Rights and always stay strong.
- It was noted that Indigenous Monitors should be given more of a voice and be included in the panels as it would give attendees an opportunity to learn from them. Another suggestion was to share more videos and photographs of plants during gatherings.
- Communities need support from Line 3 IAMC to feel empowered. Projects cannot start without communication. Protocol, capacity-building, meaningful consultation and accommodations were repeatedly emphasized as key priorities.
- There is a need for community-based, cultural and spiritual engagement with an emphasis on Elder and youth participation. More engagement and ways to stay connected outside of in-person events were also mentioned as areas to improve.

Event Keywords Gathered from Attendees

Reclamation | **Data** | **Protocol** | **Inclusion** | **Identity**
Relevancy | **Engagement** | **Safety** | **Empowerment**
Seat at the table | **Relationship** | **Employment**
Sovereignty | **Communication** | **Ownership**
Indigenous Law | **Education** | **Recognition**
Protection | **Voice**

Recommendation for Youth Mentorship

Youth mentorship was highlighted numerous times throughout the two-day event, by participants and speakers. Mentorship for youth is needed from Elders, so that their wisdom can be passed to the next generation, and so that youth can gain skills and improve their confidence. Youth should play a key role in the teamwork between Elders, leadership, Inspection Officers and Indigenous Monitors.

The Line 3 IAMC can ensure there is a focus on youth by participating in education programs, school fairs and job banks.

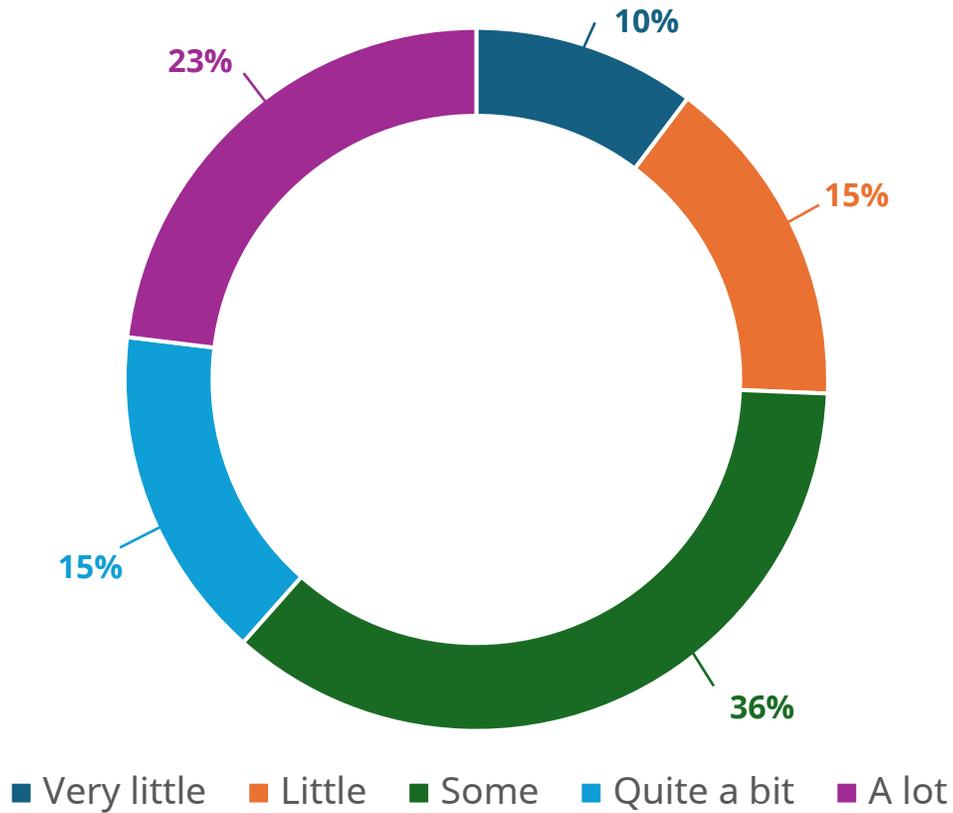
It is important to continue cultivating understanding about the cultural value of plants and passing on this knowledge to youth through mentorship, providing them with employment opportunities and hosting them at gatherings and events.

Key Takeaways

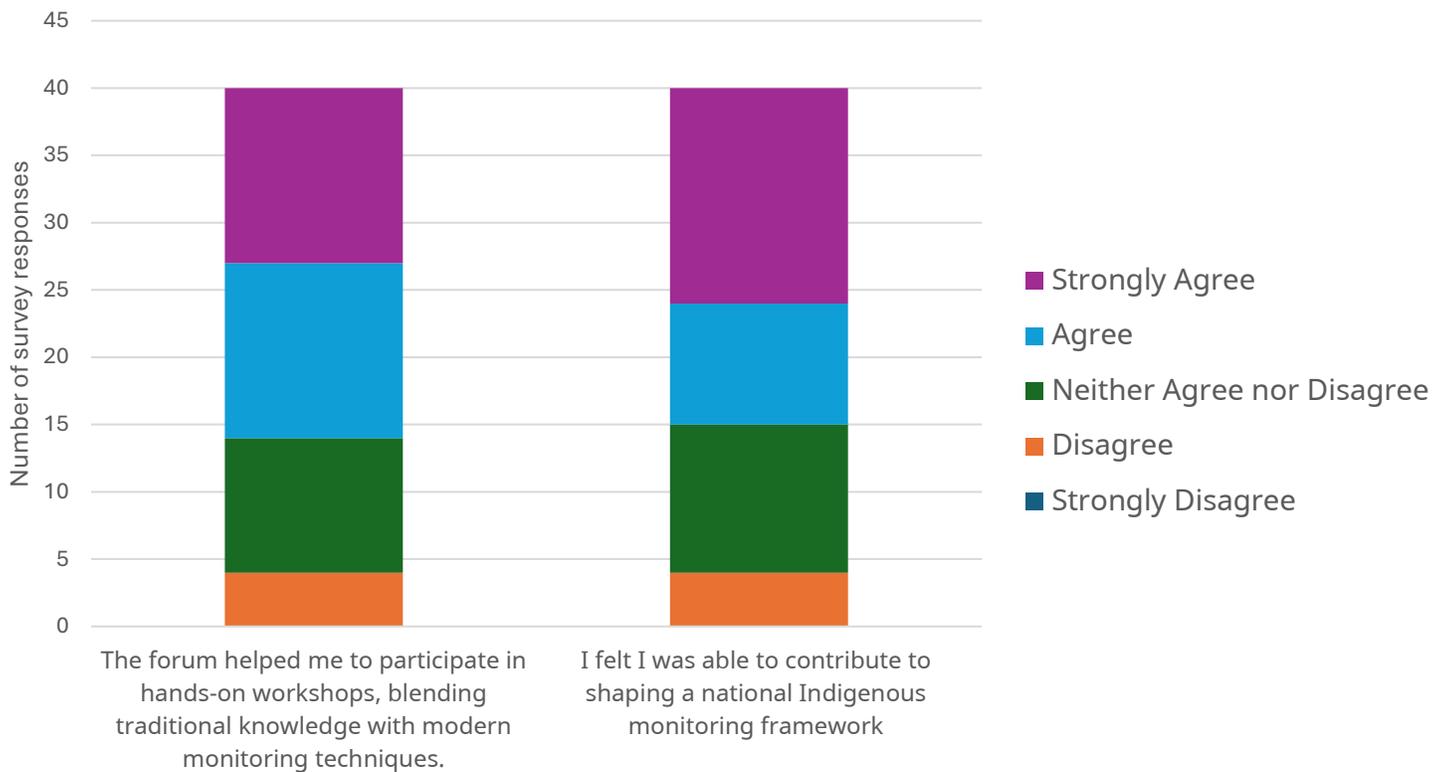
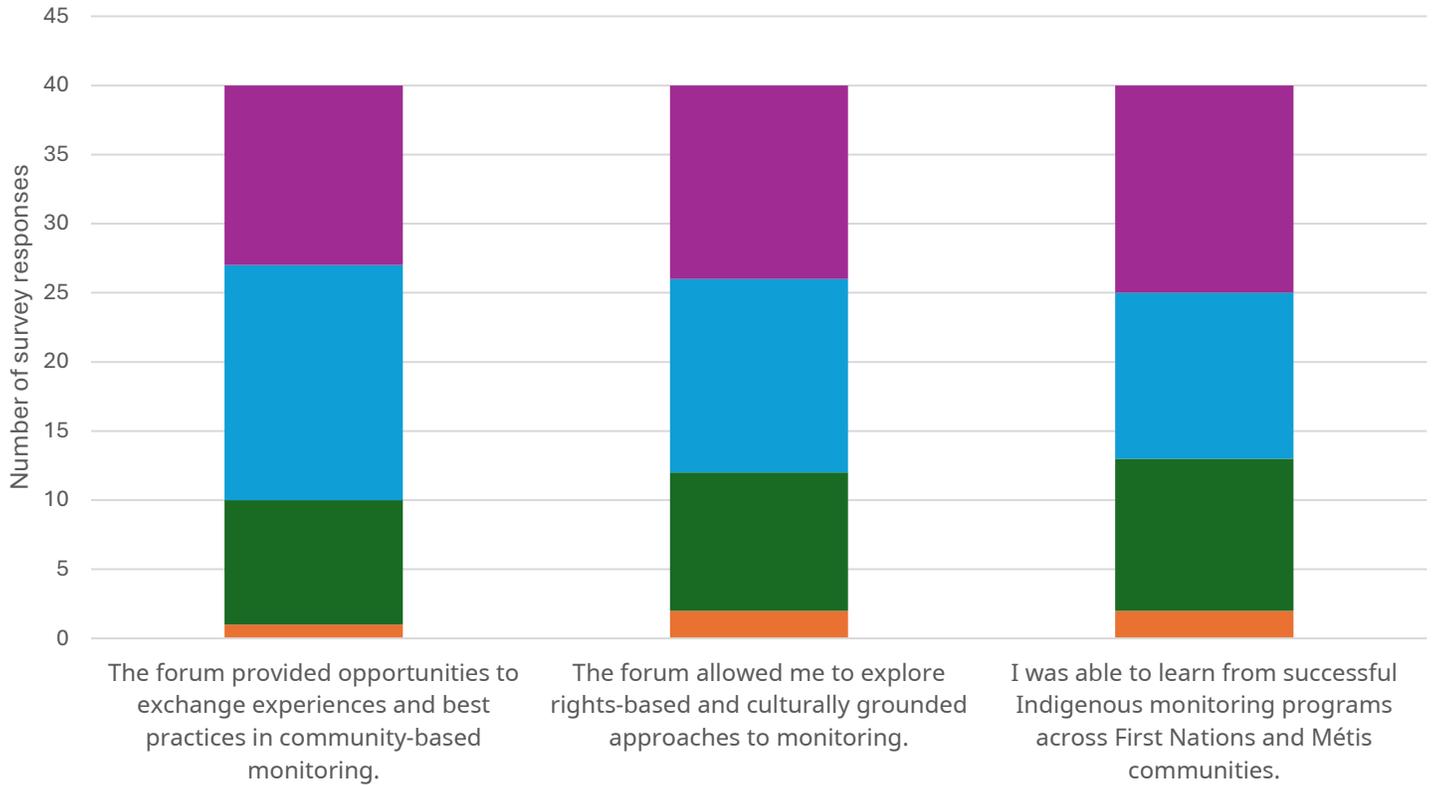
- Land-based education was highlighted multiple times as foundational to the work of Indigenous Monitors, inspection officers, contractors, industry and the Line 3 IAMC.
- Support for intergenerational sharing and learning is vital to ensure the continued health of the land, air, water, communities and future generations impacted by projects.
- Nations are looking for consistent employment opportunities and more funding for training and mentorship to ensure job security in their communities.
- Participants provided suggestions on how communication between Line 3 IAMC, industry, technicians and Indigenous Monitors could be improved:
 - Everyone on a project should understand local protocol and how to engage in meaningful consultation with Nations.
 - Technicians need to have consistent communication with Indigenous Monitors.
 - The valuable knowledge from experienced monitors and knowledge keepers should be passed on to new monitors through mentorship.
- Transparency and accessibility need to be ensured whenever Line 3 IAMC shares information.

Survey Feedback

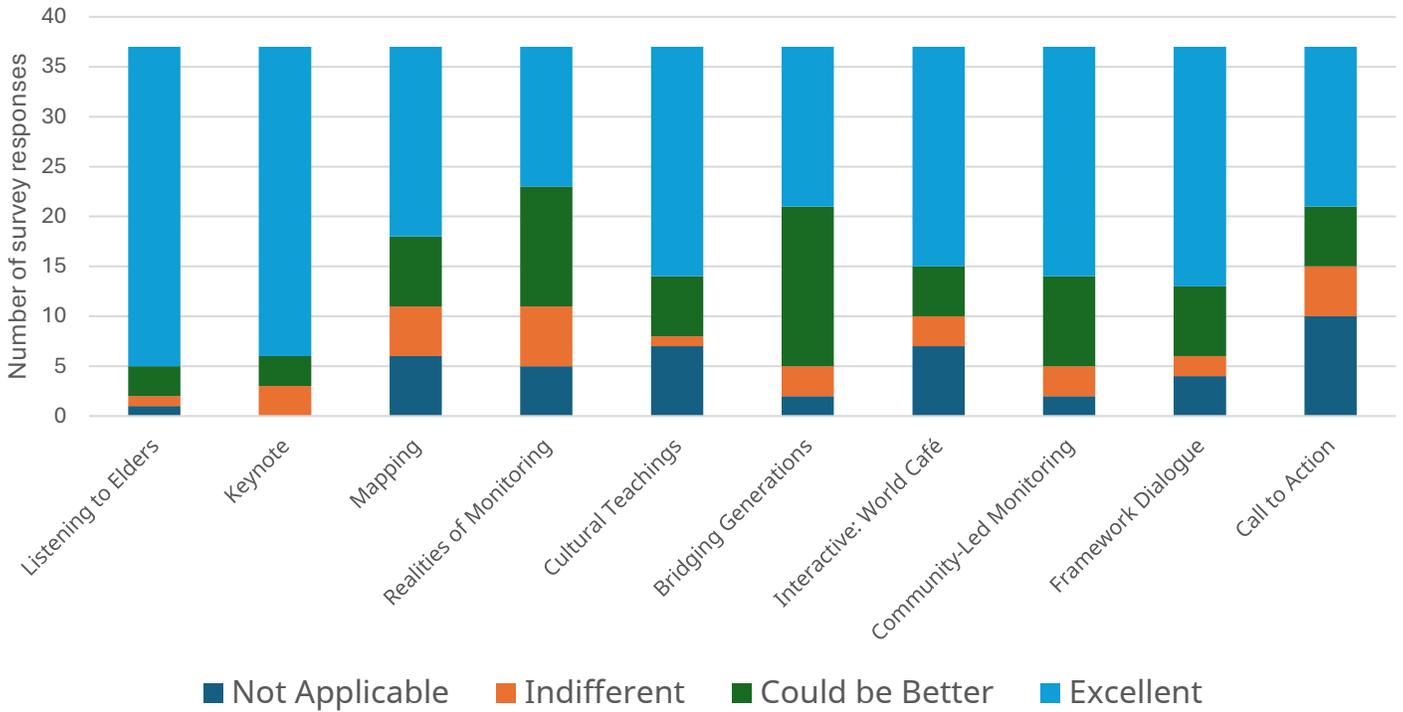
How much did you know about Indigenous Monitoring and the Line 3 IAMC before the event?



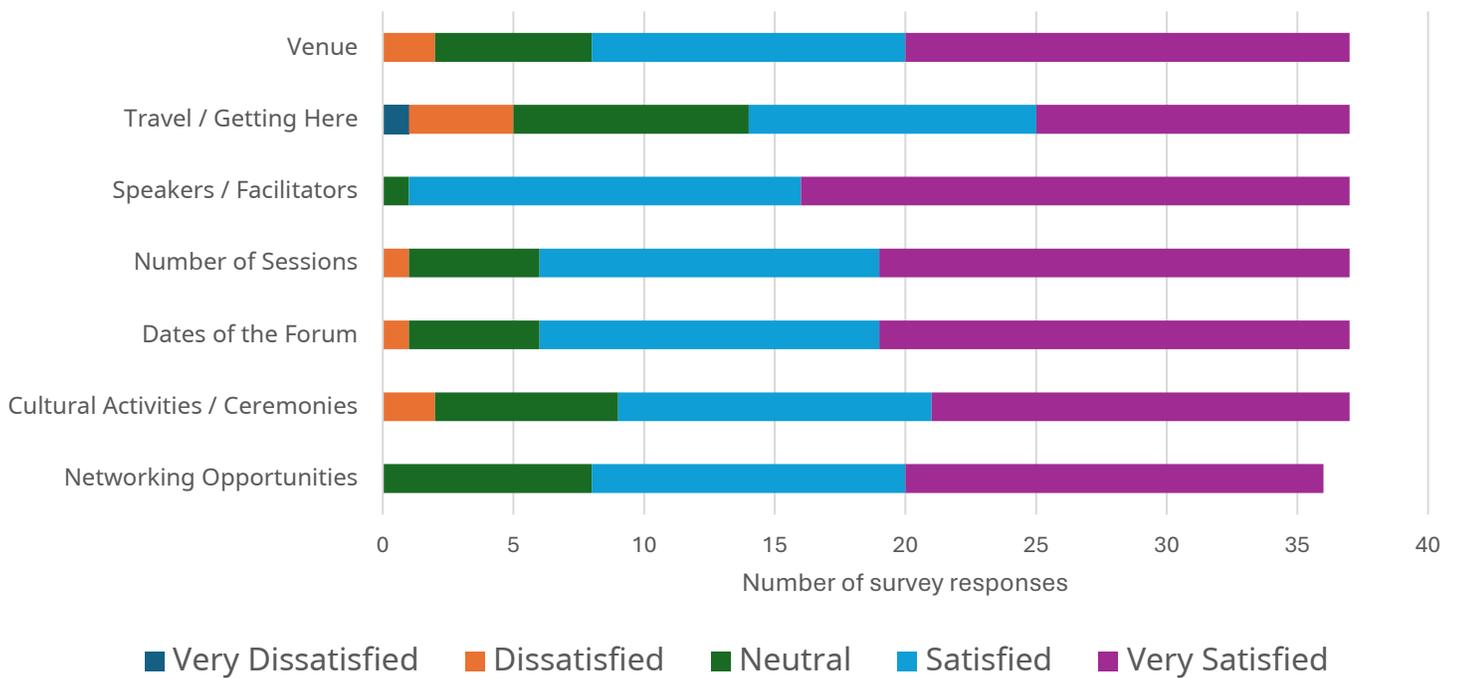
Feedback on Event Goals



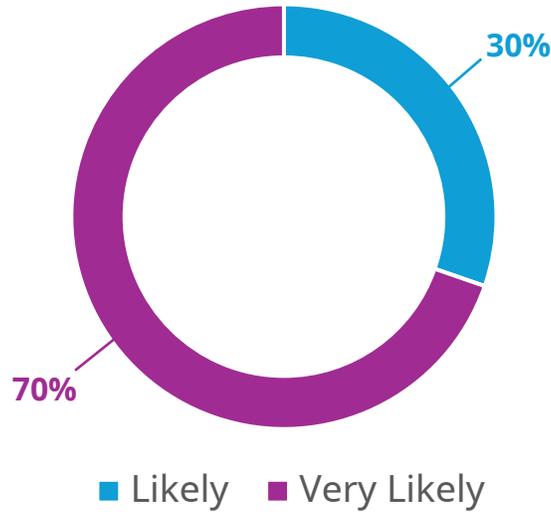
Feedback on Sessions



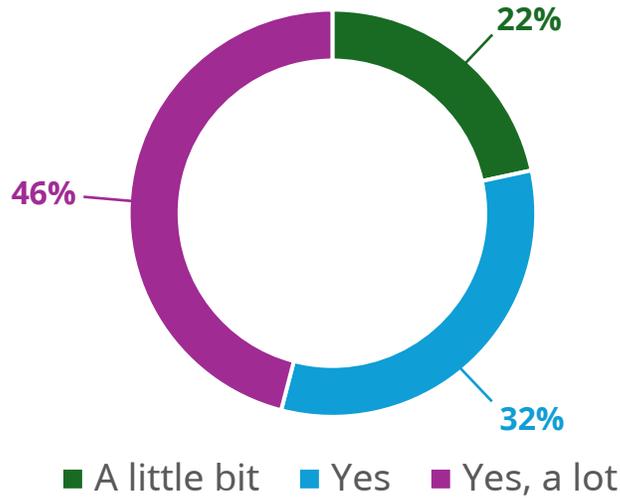
Level of Satisfaction with Aspects of the Event



How likely would you be to recommend the forum to someone else?



By attending the forum, did you gain a better understanding of Indigenous Monitoring and the Line 3 IAMC?



100% of participants said they would attend another Indigenous Monitoring Forum!

Participant Comments

- *"The event provided an opportunity to share knowledge, hear different perspectives and learn from Elders and the panelists."*
- *"The interactive sessions allowed for important in-person networking and opportunities to meet others."*
- *"The entertainment, star teachings, traditional stories and the ability to support Indigenous business were appreciated."*
- *"It was helpful to hear what IAMC wants from Nations, and some of the plans for monitors."*
- *"While the location was enjoyable, a less isolated venue would be preferable."*
- *"Indigenous Monitors should be on panels sharing their experiences."*
- *"There should be more opportunities for participation through hands-on activities and increased movement."*
- *"It would be beneficial to get to know a plant/tree/animal for deeper learning, and to include more First Nations stories and opportunities to learn from Elders."*
- *"There was interest in giving the opportunity to propose performers for gatherings."*
- *"More information is needed on how to pass on knowledge to the youth."*
- *"More cultural teachings for monitors were encouraged."*
- *"A few more breaks during the event would be helpful."*

Contact Us

If you would like more information on the topics presented at the Line-Wide Gathering or have general questions about the Line 3 IAMC, please contact us: info@iamc-line3.com

The Line 3 Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee would like to thank all participants for attending the 2025 Indigenous Monitoring Forum and contributing your valuable input.

We look forward to integrating this feedback into our collective work ahead.

Participant List

Bearspaw First Nation	Métis Nation of Alberta	Whitefish Lake First Nation
Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation	Métis Nation of Saskatchewan	Indigenous Visions Inc.
Cote First Nation	Montana First Nation	Musqua Environmental Ltd.
Cowessess First Nation	Moosomin First Nation	ONEHOOP
Day Star First Nation	Muskowekwan First Nation	Seven Generations Environmental Services Ltd.
Frog Lake First Nation	Peguis First Nation	Indigenous Advisory & Monitoring Committee for Trans Mountain Expansion
George Gordon First Nation	Piapot First Nation	Canada Energy Regulator
Keeseekoose First Nation	Pinaymootang First Nation	Natural Resources Canada
Key First Nation	Samson Cree Nation	Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta
Lac Ste Anne Métis Community Association	Stoney Nakoda First Nation	Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology
Long Plain First Nation	Swan Lake First Nation	
Manitoba Métis Federation	Tsuut'ina Nation	

Agenda

Day One

Day Two

Registration & Breakfast	Breakfast
Opening Prayer & Welcome	Morning Reflections & Opening
Keynote Address: Protecting Our Sacred Trust – The Future of Indigenous Land Stewardship	Panel Discussion 2: Bridging Generations – Youth Engagement in Indigenous Monitoring
Storying the Land – Bringing Together Teachings and Data	Interactive Session: World Café
Lunch	Panel Discussion 3: Community-led Monitoring Programs
Panel 1: Listening to Elders Weaving Past and Present	Lunch
The Current Realities of Monitoring: Key to a Successful Monitoring Program – Knowledge Sharing Between all Parties	Future National Indigenous Monitoring Framework and Interactive Engagement
Wrap-up & Reflections	Closing Ceremony
Dinner	Closing Remarks & Door Prizes
Cultural Teachings	