

Line 3 IAMC Indigenous Monitoring Forum

What We Heard Summary

On September 18-19, 2025 Line 3 IAMC held an Indigenous Monitoring Forum on Stoney Nakoda First Nation territory in Alberta. The goal of the event 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 and Indigenous Monitoring. Below is a summary of the direction from attendees at the forum.

1. Connection to the Land

Indigenous Monitoring is not only technical work – it is deeply rooted in connection to the land, culture, ceremony, and responsibilities to future generations. Land-based learning, Indigenous knowledge, cultural teachings, and Nation-specific protocols are foundational elements of effective monitoring programs. Treaty rights, Indigenous laws, and community protocols must be respected when working on projects impacting Indigenous territories.

Priorities: Learning directly on the land; Involving Elders and Knowledge Keepers in monitoring activities; Protecting sacred sites, medicines, water, wildlife, and cultural areas; Combining traditional knowledge with western approaches; Ensuring ceremony and protocol are integrated into monitoring processes.

2. Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing

Mentorship between Elders, experienced monitors, and youth must be strengthened and monitors must support the transfer of knowledge, skills, stories, and cultural teachings to future generations.

Priorities: Supporting youth engagement and mentorship opportunities in future monitoring initiatives, gatherings, and decision-making processes; Creating long-term career pathways in Indigenous Monitoring; Building leadership skills and confidence for emerging monitors; Supporting hands-on and land-based learning opportunities; Strengthening intergenerational knowledge sharing within communities.

3. Long-Term Support and Capacity Building

Inconsistent employment, limited long-term funding, and insufficient access to training and certifications for Indigenous Monitors are a concern. Nation-based monitoring programs need stable, long-term investments to build sustainable community capacity and offer broader career opportunities. Line 3 IAMC cannot create employment opportunities, but can support training and capacity development for career advancement.

Priorities: Permanent and full-time monitoring positions located on Nation; Consistent training and mentorship programs; Funding for education and certifications; Community-led curriculum development; Greater support for baseline environmental data collection; Improved access to resources, legal advice, and technical support.

4. Communication, Accessibility, and Transparency

Improving communication between Indigenous Nations, monitors, industry, regulators, and technical experts is crucial to build trust and ensure meaningful participation. Meaningful engagement happens through relationships, trust, and ongoing dialogue.

Priorities: Sharing information in plain language; Making reports more accessible to communities; Using multiple communication channels and traditional languages; Supporting more in-person gatherings and relationship-based discussions; Ensuring Nations maintain ownership and control over their data and knowledge; Increasing transparency about how information is collected and used.

5. Indigenous Voices & Decision-Making

Indigenous Monitors and communities must be actively involved throughout the full lifecycle of projects. We need to bridge the gaps between industry, regulators, and communities by creating stronger partnerships grounded in respect, cultural understanding, and collaboration.

Priorities: Respecting Nations' right to say "no"; Increasing Indigenous participation in decision-making; Recognizing Indigenous ownership of data and knowledge; Improving relationships between community and industry; Building trust through accountability and consistent engagement; Supporting Indigenous-led monitoring approaches and Nation-based priorities.

Read the full report here!

