

To: House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women

From: The Indigenous Caucus (Caucus) of the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and Existing Pipeline (IAMC-TMX)

Date: May 9, 2022

RE: Resource Development and Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls

BACKGROUND

The Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion and Existing Pipeline (“IAMC-TMX”) was established in 2017 and is intended to form the basis of a new relationship between Indigenous Communities, the Government of Canada and the Canada Energy Regulator (“CER”) in respect to Trans Mountain Corporation (“TMC”) and Trans Mountain Expansion Project (“TMEP”) activities. The Committee, comprised of 13 Indigenous and six senior federal representatives and serving 129 impacted Indigenous communities, provides for collaborative, inclusive and meaningful Indigenous involvement in the review and monitoring of the environmental, safety and socioeconomic issues related to TMC activities over their lifecycles.

A key priority of the IAMC-TMX since its inception has been identifying and addressing the impacts to Indigenous communities resulting from temporary work camps and influx of workers. The IAMC-TMX Socioeconomic Subcommittee (“SESC”), established in 2018 and comprised of Indigenous and federal members, and with TMC representatives invited monthly to provide Indigenous-specific reporting, seeks to support Indigenous communities in their efforts to improve how socioeconomic effects associated with major projects, such as TMEP, are identified, addressed and managed. Currently, the work of the SESC is focused on:

- Building capacity for Indigenous communities, at the regional and community level, to participate directly in socioeconomic monitoring, including through the identification of important social, economic, health & wellbeing, and cultural indicators, as well as actions focused on preventing or mitigating adverse project impacts in their territories. While this work largely focuses on TMEP, the learnings can be applicable to future projects. The SESC’s current work involves three pilot projects, including two new, regional working groups based in Alberta [Yellowhead] and British Columbia [Fraser Valley], and a community-based monitoring program situated in the BC Interior [Simpchw].
- Conducting research, with input and guidance from Indigenous communities, in areas such as assessment of TMEP polices and regulations from an international best practice perspective, researching labour demand¹ and other economic inclusion² matters with a focus on TMC and TMEP, analyzing the intersection between TMEP’s transient workers and impacts to affected Indigenous communities, and exploring potential ways that Indigenous oversight regarding social, cultural and rights-based issues may be enhanced.
- Holding monthly discussions with TMC focused on tracking and reporting of co-developed, Indigenous-focused socioeconomic indicators as an aspect of enhancing Indigenous participation related to TMEP’s existing Socio-Economic Effects Monitoring Plan (“SEEMP”).

¹ Castlemain Group, “Trans Mountain Expansion Project: Labour Demand Study” (2019).

² Callison & Hanna Indigenous Advocates, “Report on Indigenous Socio-Economic Inclusion Related to the Trans Mountain Expansion Project” (2019).

- Documenting lessons learned through the work of the SESC, including for the purposes of providing advice to government regarding TMC and TMEP (and by extension, future major projects), and with a goal of enhancing the socioeconomic oversight role of Indigenous peoples.

In 2021, Indigenous members, federal regulators and TMC representatives co-developed three socioeconomic monitoring pilot initiatives through the SESC, one situated in Alberta [Yellowhead] and two situated in BC [Fraser Valley and Simpcw]. The overarching aim of these pilot initiatives is to strengthen Indigenous oversight regarding socioeconomic risks and effects, including related to TMEP's five work camps in British Columbia and the large numbers of workers using temporary accommodation in both BC and Alberta. Specific objectives include:

- To identify regional and community-based socioeconomic effects monitoring priorities;
- To enhance information gathering, data sharing and reporting activities with the intent of improving management of socioeconomic effects; and
- To bolster existing or inform new response or mitigation measures.

Much of the work of the SESC and its three pilot initiatives aligns with the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice related to the Extractive and Development Industries, as well as with federal commitments to addressing ongoing concerns related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls ("MMIWG") and Gender-Based Violence ("GBV").

FOCUS OF THIS BRIEF

This brief is situated in the work of the SESC over the past five years, including work that has been undertaken through our three pilot initiatives, and is being submitted for the purpose of highlighting key socioeconomic issues and priorities that have been identified by affected Indigenous communities related to TEMP. In alignment with the Status of Women Committee's invitation to the public in spring 2022, we have primarily focused this written brief on matters concerning temporary work camps and influx of workers, both of which are an ongoing phenomenon directly related to resource development projects.

The work undertaken by the SESC since 2018 highlights that, for Indigenous peoples, the requirements and conditions for identifying, managing, monitoring and responding to social, economic, cultural and health & wellbeing issues and concerns pertaining to natural resource projects are insufficient. Government, industry and Indigenous communities have much more to do to effectively understand and manage these concerns, including in relation to matters concerning MMIWG and GBV. This brief provides recommendations for legislative change(s), regulatory adjustment(s), collaboration and provision of funding that would empower Indigenous communities to be more instrumentally involved in identifying risks and developing (and implementing) solutions.

SESC research involving Indigenous communities, including research that has been carried out through our pilot regional and community-based initiatives, has identified deep, ongoing concerns regarding community safety and security related to TEMP. This includes angst associated with the high numbers of non-local workers entering into Indigenous territories, and where it is understood that vulnerable populations, including Indigenous women and girls, youth and gender diverse individuals, will bear impacts such as reduced access to traditional harvesting and/or hunting sites, increased incidents of racism on and off construction sites, and escalation in GBV, etc.

Major projects such as TMEP lead to an influx of many thousands of non-local workers into Indigenous territories, these numbers over and above those non-local workers already working in the resource sector in those territories. This amplifies Indigenous concerns regarding the safety of their members, including women and children. Through SESC research, we have heard from Indigenous members that some feel it necessary, in the context of TEMP, to perpetually consider their own safety when making decisions about day-to-day activities, such as if and when they will leave the house to access local services, to visit cultural sites (if those have not been disrupted by construction), or to participate in cultural activities, such as hunting and/or harvesting (if access has not been prohibited due to construction). The influx of cash into local economies that comes with major projects, resulting from relatively well-paid employment positions and long hours of work, is believed to lead to increases in incidents of GBV.³ These issues also have linkages to increased use of illicit drugs, abuse of alcohol and activities associated with sexual exploitation. Sexual assault, harassment, and human trafficking are issues that remain of critical concern for Indigenous communities living proximate to work camps, as well as of communities facing large influxes of non-local workers staying in temporary accommodation, such as hotels, motels, rental housing, and RV parks, etc. In addition, Indigenous communities fear that the strain on local services due to the addition of vast numbers of workers into the local area, such as in the case of medical services, is not well reported.

These prevailing concerns of Indigenous communities, as identified through the work of the SESC, are corroborated by other studies. Research by Amnesty International (2019) has demonstrated that an influx of a temporary, largely male workforce increases the demand for sex purchasing and the presence of sex trafficking in a particular area or community (forced entrance into the sex trade), as well as actual sex work (voluntary and consensual entrance into the sex trade).⁴ As this mostly male workforce travels back and forth to rural communities for resource development reasons, so too does the sex trade.⁵ Sex trafficking can also occur within work camps themselves through exploitation of the female workforce in exchange for enhanced economic opportunities (i.e. to get a better schedule or a promotion).⁶ Other studies have found that the resource extraction sector has legacies of a hyper-masculine culture that can be amplified by alcohol and drug consumption.⁷ In cases where there is an influx of temporary workers into work camps, and where abuse of alcohol exists, there are increased incidences in drunk driving and accidents, sexual harassment and assault, and other forms of violence and discrimination towards Indigenous community members and Indigenous workers.⁸ The potential for GBV increases in such contexts, in the form of violence against women and girls, unwanted sexual comments and touching, harassment, sexual assault and human trafficking.

The historical views of Indigenous females as sexually available has carried into the views and attitudes of many non-Indigenous citizens.⁹ Sexual violence and exploitation are frequently seen by non-Indigenous people as a consequence for a personal choice, rather than abuse or an infringement on human rights, thus normalizing the violence.¹⁰ The hyper-masculine culture and values associated with industrial camps perpetuate harmful stereotypes and normalizes the violence to Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGTQQIA by

³ See Carol Linnett, "B.C. failed to consider links between 'man camps,' violence against Indigenous women, Wet'suwet'en argue," *The Narwhal* (2020). <https://thenarwhal.ca/b-c-failed-to-consider-links-between-man-camps-violence-against-indigenous-women-wetsuweten-argue/>

⁴ Amnesty International, "Out of Sight, and Out of Mind: Gender, Indigenous Rights, and Energy Development in Northeast British Columbia, Canada" (2016).

⁵ Native Women's Association of Canada, "NWAC Discouraged by Racist Assumptions in the Globe and Mail" (2014).

⁶ The Firelight Group, Lake Babine Nation, and Nak'azdli Whut'en, "Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps: Promoting Healthy Communities in Settings of Industrial Change" (2017).

⁷ The Firelight Group, "Temporary Workcamps and Influx of Workers Initiative – A Focus on Racism and Grievance Mechanisms" (2022); Jennifer Dorozio and Hannah Kost, "Hyper-masculine environment' contributes to higher rate of suicides in oilpatch," *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* (2019). <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/mental-oil-alberta-oil-patch-1.5277079>.

⁸ Community Development Institute [CDI], "Best Practices Guiding Industry-Community Relationships, Planning, and Mobile Workforces" (2019).

⁹ Sarah Hunt "Restoring the Honouring Circle: Taking a Stand against Youth Sexual Exploitation" (2011).

¹⁰ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (2019).

allowing workers to seek out sex workers and contribute to the increase in sex trafficking.¹¹ The demand for the sex trade now relies on the use of technology for sex work exchanges, making it less visible in communities and camps, but still very much present.¹²

It is well documented that Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA are disproportionately present in the sex trade and are most at risk of being exploited in work camps and rural communities.¹³ Studies point to the ongoing legacies and current realities of colonialism, racism, and gender discrimination as underlying reasons for why Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA experience higher rates of poverty, lower levels of education, greater incidents of homelessness and ongoing, deep-seated self-esteem challenges that put them at a heightened risk to be sexually exploited and trafficked.¹⁴ We also know that, as of May 2022, Indigenous women now account for one-half of the female population in federal penitentiaries, while making up only 1 in 20 of women overall in the Canadian population.¹⁵ Moreover, it is well understood that once Indigenous women have encountered the judicial system, their criminal record history can be a major deterrent for their further employment success, making them more vulnerable to those that would seek to exploit them.¹⁶ Indigenous communities, particularly those nearby larger cities, are often targets for the trafficking of women and girls.¹⁷

Effective mechanisms to support community safety and that can ensure the security of individuals remains deficient. Through research that is currently underway, the SESC has found a lack of appropriate community and regional supports that serve to effectively protect the most vulnerable populations in Indigenous communities.¹⁸ This includes a lack of public transportation options to/from remote communities and a lack of women's shelters. In a development-intensive area such as Fort St. John, BC, organizations supporting victims of violence and sexual assault report that they have long waiting lists of women seeking their help.¹⁹ Without assurance that such supports are in place, women and girls are at higher risk when travelling for any reason, including to larger centers that can potentially provide greater support.²⁰ Indigenous members associated with the SESC have also commented on the changes in housing availability and accessibility as a result of major projects and an influx of thousands of workers. This includes rental housing being used to house resource development workers and skyrocketing rental costs that are the result of workers who are willing and able to pay higher rates for local accommodation.²¹ This effect compounds existing issues regarding vulnerability, and results in an enhanced need for appropriate supports to ensure that Indigenous communities are able to better mitigate and prevent GBV and sexual exploitation from occurring.

The **absence of appropriate grievance mechanisms in connection with major projects** means that victims are more likely to not report incidents when they do occur, including due to a lack of trust that the incident will be meaningfully addressed.²² We have heard from Indigenous communities that there is a lack of awareness and trust in industry-led grievance mechanisms and that industry-led hotlines are not a form of meaningful engagement with Indigenous people.²³ Industry and regulators, alongside Indigenous

¹¹The Firelight Group, Lake Babine Nation, and Nak'azdli Whut'en, "Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps: Promoting Healthy Communities in Settings of Industrial Change" (2017).

¹²Dustin William Louie, "Social Media and the Sexual Exploitation of Indigenous Girls" (2017).

¹³Dustin William Louie, "Preventative Education for Indigenous Girls Vulnerable to the Sex Trade" (2016).

¹⁴Native Women's Association of Canada, "NWAC Discouraged by Racist Assumptions in the Globe and Mail" (2014).

¹⁵Patrick White, "Shocking and shameful: For the first time, Indigenous women make up half the female population in Canada's federal prisons" *Globe and Mail* (2022). <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-half-of-all-women-inmates-are-indigenous/>

¹⁶Native Women's Association of Canada, "Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls: Literature Review and Key Informant Interviews Final Report" (2014). https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014_NWAC_Human_Trafficking_and_Sexual_Exploitation_Report.pdf

¹⁷Native Women's Association of Canada, "NWAC Discouraged by Racist Assumptions in the Globe and Mail" (2014).

¹⁸The Firelight Group, "Temporary Workcamps and Influx of Workers Initiative – A Focus on Racism and Grievance Mechanisms" (2022).

¹⁹Kyle Edwards, "How we treat women: Worker camps make it possible to build infrastructure in remote locations in Canada. Is it worth the human cost?" *Maclean's* (2019). <https://www.macleans.ca/how-we-treat-women/>

²⁰The Firelight Group, "Temporary Workcamps and Influx of Workers Initiative – A Focus on Racism and Grievance Mechanisms" (2022).

²¹*Ibid.*

²²*Ibid.*

²³*Ibid.*

communities, need to collaborate to design appropriate grievance mechanisms and to ensure that reporting of incidents of sexual assault and harassment is transparent so that action can be taken to ensure appropriate support of victims, and to prevent further such incidents from occurring. Presently, should a worker be dismissed for wrongful behaviour, in particular related to an incident involving a member of a vulnerable population, there is no mechanism to ensure public reporting and tracking of these incidents while still abiding by applicable labour laws. To reflect a more accurate depiction of the risks and to ensure that the behaviour is not repeated elsewhere (by the same or other individuals), more transparent reporting is required.

The SESC receives monthly reports from TMC regarding predetermined socioeconomic matters, and members of the SESC are able to make specific queries of TMC as an aspect of increasing Indigenous participation in the oversight of TMC's SEEMP. These monthly reporting sessions stem from SESC and TMC collaborations in 2019 which sought to address a gap identified by Indigenous Caucus members related to a lack of Indigenous-specific socioeconomic effects indicators related to TEMP. This has led to some improvements, such as TMC beginning to collect gender disaggregated data pertaining to Indigenous employment and training. However, the information being gathered is not available as it corresponds to specific regions or to specific Indigenous communities. This is an ongoing concern expressed at the SESC, that **major projects are not required to track Indigenous-focused data, including as this pertains to the effects of the project on Indigenous communities, and nor are impacts by gender being appropriately tracked.** These ongoing concerns can be seen to contribute to the underreporting of GBV related to specific projects.²⁴ Further to the above, the work of the SESC has highlighted the challenges of tracking and attributing certain socioeconomic effects to one proponent in an area where there is more than one major project occurring. These findings are consistent with research carried out within other communities impacted by resource development projects, such as Lake Babine Nation and Nak'azdli Whut'en.²⁵ Often women and girls do not report assault and harassment due to a wide variety of barriers that include systemic racism (that exists at various levels), women not being believed, lack of access to services, trauma and poverty, among others.

Relationships to service providers. The Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG points attention to the use of disproportionate force against Indigenous peoples, and deficiencies regarding how police conduct investigations involving Indigenous peoples. Through engagement and research conducted by the SESC, Indigenous peoples have advocated for a strong, supportive relationship with local RCMP with the aim of enhancing the safety of Indigenous communities.²⁶ For example, through direct involvement in the SESC's pilot initiatives, we have heard from both local RCMP and Indigenous communities about concerns over the anticipated increase in alcohol/drug induced criminal behaviour (i.e. fights, drunk driving, sexual assault) that can result from an influx of temporary workers, and its impact on already burdened police detachments. Establishing a relationship early on, prior to actual incidences occurring, and instituting effective communication of existing policies as well as changes being enacted by policing agencies, can contribute to communities being better prepared and appropriately protected in relation to major projects.²⁷ This would include an appropriate increasing of policing resources aligned with increases in the non-local population related to an influx of temporary workers.

Over the past few years, the SESC has been aware of Indigenous concerns pertaining to TMEP as this relates specifically to choices that were made as a part of the project's Worker Accommodation Strategy ("WAS"). A WAS is an important aspect of major projects as it is intended to effectively deal with the reality of high numbers of non-local workers working on a project. The choice of strategy taken by a company can greatly

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ The Firelight Group, Lake Babine Nation, and Nak'azdli Whut'en, "Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps: Promoting Healthy Communities in Settings of Industrial Change" (2017).

²⁶ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* (2019).

²⁷ The Firelight Group, Lake Babine Nation, and Nak'azdli Whut'en, "Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps: Promoting Healthy Communities in Settings of Industrial Change" (2017).

influence the type of impacts that nearby Indigenous communities will face. **Construction (or work) camps** are temporary facilities, where workers are housed, fed, and kept together in one space, often at some distance from a nearby community. **Hotel- or motel-based accommodation strategies**, as well as private rental accommodation and RV parks, involve workers being housed individually, with their down time spent alone at their place of accommodation which is often located in a town or city. Hotel-based behaviour is a concern for Indigenous peoples given that company oversight, protocols and policies are more difficult to implement and monitor, and worker behaviour in public settings is harder to control.²⁸

In both instances above – construction camps or hotel-based accommodation – decisions that are key to ensuring the prevention of adverse impacts include: the specific location of the camp, the strength of policies regarding drugs and alcohol and harassment, conditions that are set by the regulator, training that is required to be taken by workers, and the depth of relationships that are fostered with local responders and community supports.

Table 1: The following are concerns raised by Indigenous communities affected by TMEP in connection with two different approaches to worker accommodation and with potential impacts on Indigenous women and girls.

Issue	Work Camp	Hotels (or private rental, RV parks)
Access to alcohol	Camps can have wet, dry, or damp camp policies, all of which can influence worker behaviour and choices. Government influence on regulations of camps could guide camps towards dry requirements. However, workers may then choose to leave camp after shifts to seek out access to alcohol. Workers under the influence of alcohol or drugs can experience heightened feelings of loneliness, leading them to seek out sexual services, or these substances may lead them to behave inappropriately towards women and girls. At camps, this behaviour can be curbed by the effect of being observed by co-workers.	Hotel-based behaviour is unregulated. Workers can drink freely, and this can influence their abuse of alcohol (and also drugs) as well as the choices they make after hours, potentially putting at risk Indigenous women and girls living in communities where workers are housed.
Unwanted comments, touching and sexual harassment	Policies regarding at work behaviour and conduct in the camp can be set and enforced. Worker behaviour after hours at the camp can be observed, regulated, and sanctioned more easily if it is reported or observed.	Policies can be set for expectations for worker conduct during and after work. Worker behaviour offsite is harder to observe and regulate.
Sexual assault	Policies for at work and in camp behaviour can be established by companies. Sexual assaults occur on site. Mechanisms for reporting assault on site need to be clearly established, used, and reported on. Assaults at camps generally get reported to the RCMP or other local police. As such, the assault may or may not get reported and coded to the industry, or to the regulator, thereby causing such incidences to go under the radar in relation to resource development projects.	Policies for at work and in camp behavior can be established by companies. Hotel behaviour is harder to observe given the privacy afforded at a hotel or other non-camp accommodation. Sexual assaults off hours and at hotels generally get reported to the RCMP or other local police and are not tracked or connected to an industrial camp, or to the regulator, causing them to go under the radar in relation to resource development projects.
Behaviours at Camp as suggested through Code of Conduct (potential regulatory condition)	Regulators can set a requirement for a Code of Conduct. The Code of Conducts can be set and enforced during and after work hours.	The Code of Conducts can be set and enforced during and after work hours, although this is more challenging when workers are staying in hotel or other private accommodations.

²⁸ The Firelight Group, “Temporary Workcamps and Influx of Workers Initiative – A Focus on Racism and Grievance Mechanisms” (2022).

Further to the above, SESC members have expressed concern that the TMEP WAS is not required to be regularly updated, nor are Indigenous communities consulted as the project proceeds and schedules and workforce needs require adjustments. Regular communication and collaboration with impacted Indigenous communities, far ahead of a project and throughout, would build an improved understanding of local realities concerning housing needs and availability, and better tracking of the pressures and impacts associated with a temporary influx of workers.

Recommendations

Indigenous communities collaborating with the CER, other federal departments, TMC, and other service providers and partners have been central to advancing the work of the SESC and have enabled us to contribute a unique perspective, with targeted recommendations, to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women. While the SESC is currently organizing to more fully document learnings from the past five years through a 'Wise Practices' process, we welcome this opportunity to put forward, on behalf of Indigenous Caucus members, the following lessons learned from our work.

- There is a need to move beyond cultural competency and towards achieving **cultural safety**. Cultural safety requires addressing power imbalances and understanding personal and system biases, as well as developing and maintaining respectful processes and relationships based on mutual trust. Governments and regulators can help to ensure cultural safety by making the necessary changes to laws, policies, regulations, and practices, including the creation of an **Anti-Racism Act**. Such changes would make **cultural, diversity, and unconscious bias awareness** training, informed or led by Indigenous peoples, mandatory for all contractors, staff and management prior to arrival at the work site. This training could address etiquette, cultural awareness, customs, respect for Indigenous cultures and peoples, LGBTQIA2S+ awareness, and training regarding policies for traditional use and heritage resources finds.
- Regulators and industry can **set conditions that require workplaces to normalize a culture of respect for women by mandating sexual exploitation awareness training for all workers**, and by ensuring that formal workplace discussions regarding consent and sexual exploitation occur with greater frequency, and that there is clear communication about GBV from leadership.
- Regulators and industry need to **examine the culture associated with the resource sector and the harsh expectations this puts on the entire labour force**. Fundamental structural adjustments are necessary to re-examine the necessity for 12-hour shifts and mobilizing for multiple weeks or months at a time, including as this relates to not just the requirement for travel, but the psychosocial costs of being away from family and out of community. Current requirements of the resource sector place social strains on workers, their families and their communities that are only now beginning to receive the attention they deserve. The documentary *Digging in the Dirt* effectively highlights the challenges faced by the work force (<https://digginginthedirtfilm.com/>).
- Develop a **national counter exploitation program** and deliver it at industrial sites, whether they are utilizing housing or camp-based accommodation strategies. This would include informing hotel employees to recognize signs of human trafficking and with a view to better monitoring of hotel-based behavior of workers so that project-linked incidents are identified and responded to.
- **Continue funding for Indigenous oversight of resource development activities**. Through federal funding of Indigenous socioeconomic monitoring, such as through the IAMC-TMX and its regional and community-based pilots associated with the SESC, a community of practice and web of safety is being developed with a focus on TMEP.

- Make funding and capacity supports available to Indigenous communities for the **development of community-based socioeconomic effects monitoring programs**. Socioeconomic risks must be defined by communities in order to ensure that what matters most to them is protected, in alignment with international and constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples as well as commitments now made under UNDRIP.²⁹ Community-based monitoring supports Indigenous communities to enact self-government by enhancing oversight of socioeconomic risks and benefits from major projects on their traditional lands.
- Funding needs to be made available for **Indigenous community-led research**. The field of socioeconomic effects monitoring is relatively new, particularly in regards to Indigenous interests and concerns. Support of community-led research in this field is key to addressing existing knowledge gaps and to ensuring the development of targeted interventions to address ongoing concerns related to MMIWG, GBV and the extractives sector. Targeted community-led research (undertaken with research partners) in relation to MMIWG and temporary work camps and influx of workers can lead to improvement of the managing of future resource development projects, including in relation to more effective issues response mechanisms.
- **Improvements are required in the breadth, tracking and analysis of socioeconomic data** by industry, including requirements for more regional tracking in areas where multiple projects are occurring or anticipated. Regulators and industry need to collaborate with Indigenous communities to define data needs and ensure that analysis and reporting of socioeconomic indicators meets the information needs of Indigenous communities and are coupled with clear requirements for action. Improving access to Indigenous statistics and data governance is aligned with existing Indigenous principles governing how data is collected, protected, used and shared (Ownership, Control, Access, Possession).³⁰
- **Tracking the availability and use of services** focused on preventing and addressing GBV in regions with high levels of resource extraction will allow for impacts to be traced back to industrial activity. These impacts are currently masked, particularly in Alberta, where it is hard to pull apart the impacts of specific projects due to the high volume of resource development activity.
- As with environmental concerns, **regulatory conditions are needed regarding expectations for mental health and well-being policies, services, and provision of community-based supports** as these relate to the effects of resource development projects, including as these pertain to the influx of temporary workers. Currently the requirements of regulatory bodies are deficient in terms of identifying, managing and reporting on impacts or ensuring that effective access to services exist in the event of assault and harassment, sanctions for behaviours, and preventative approaches (such as decisions regarding the siting of camps, selection and updating of a worker accommodation strategy, strength of on-site policies regarding harassment and racism, support services, tracking of assaults, access to grievance mechanisms, etc.).
- **Proponents, the RCMP, health authorities and Indigenous communities need to collaborate** at the earliest stages of a project with a view to **identifying and setting up mechanisms that can more effectively track, monitor and respond to GBV issues**, both on and off site, and to determine ways that Indigenous communities can be involved so as to ensure greater transparency.

²⁹ UN General Assembly, "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: resolution/adopted by the General Assembly" (2007).

³⁰ First Nation Information Governance Centre, "Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP): The Path to First Nation Information Governance" (2014). https://fnigc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/5776c4ee9387f966e6771aa93a04f389_ocap_path_to_fn_information_governance_en_final.pdf

- Further **research is needed to examine the effects of drug and alcohol consumption in work camps and other forms of worker accommodation** for project staff and contractors, during and after-hours, and on and off-site. This research would support the development of policies and programs that are more effective and would encourage harm reduction (for workers as well as for Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQIA people).

Efforts to understand, address, and monitor the social, economic, health & well-being and cultural impacts associated with resource development projects, particularly as this concerns impacts to Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people, is still in its infancy. In a time of reconciliation, impacted Indigenous communities need to be at the centre of conversations focused on improving policies and regulations. In keeping with the spirit and intent of UNDRIP, the Indigenous Caucus welcomes any future opportunities to advise the Standing Committee as they proceed with their study.

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Friedel,
Chair of the IAMC-TMX Socio-Economic Subcommittee

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