

# TC Energy

Groundbirch Mainline Loop (GBML)  
(Saturn Section)



Community Information Pamphlet  
for BCMF Member Communities



# Background

TC Energy is currently engaging with Indigenous communities along the proposed route for their project. For the purposes of this report, the project will be referred to as Groundbirch Mainline Loop (GBML) (Saturn Section).

## **Groundbirch Mainline Loop (GBML) (Saturn Section)**

- **The proposed Groundbirch Mainline Loop (GBML) (Saturn Section) would be located in the province of British Columbia within the Peace River Regional District.**
- **The installation of 23 km of 42-inch diameter (NPS 42) pipeline starts at the existing Saturn No. 2 Receipt Meter Station within the NW 21-80-20W6M, approximately 32 km southwest of the City of Fort St. John and tie in to a future valve site within NW 2-79-19 W6M, approximately 36 km west of the City of Dawson Creek.**

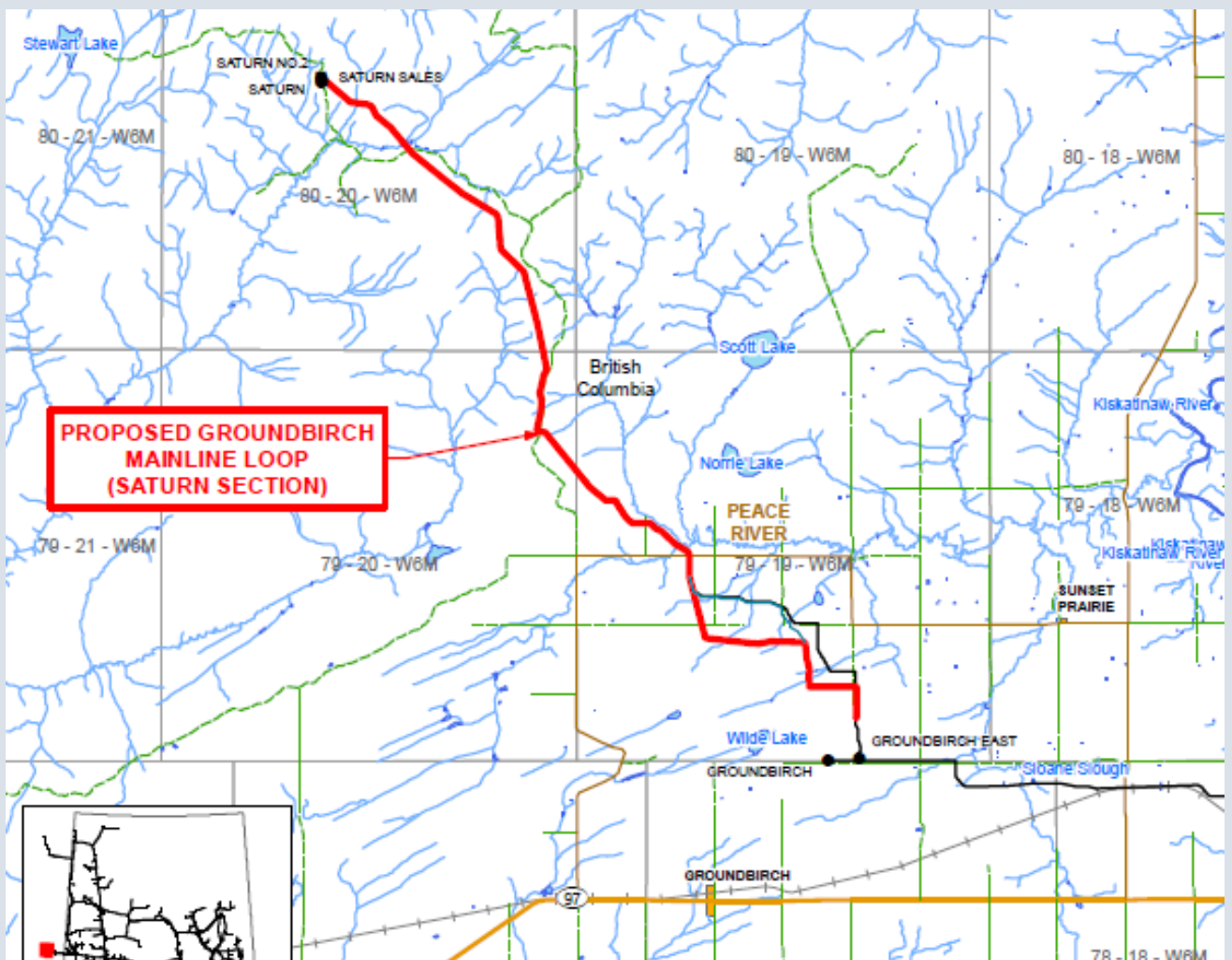
# Introduction

The proposed Groundbirch Mainline Loop (GBML) (Saturn Section) would be located in the province of British Columbia within the Peace River Regional District.

Community engagement activities are currently underway between TC Energy and BCMF's partnership communities including identification of communities and members located along the proposed route, consultation and surveillance of cumulative effects of industry presence and impacts of the land as determined by the local Metis individuals and families.

# Project Route

## Proposed Pipeline Route



BCMF has reached out to all active members located along the proposed route and is hosting virtual sessions. If you'd like to participate, please contact [research@bcmetis.com](mailto:research@bcmetis.com)

# Consultation

***The Crown has a constitutional obligation to consult with Indigenous groups.***

Consultation, however, is not only a legal obligation. It is also a means to promote reconciliation and cooperation between Indigenous groups and Canada. Consultation must be done properly and in good faith in order to further the goals of reconciliation and cooperation.

## The Duty to Consult With Collectives

The Crown has a constitutional duty to consult with Aboriginal groups as collectives. The government cannot, therefore fulfill the duty to consult by communicating with individual Métis citizens. For example, communicating with a Métis trapper or hunter would not satisfy the Crown's duty to consult. The Crown would instead have to consult with the Métis community that claims hunting or trapping rights over a specific area. The Supreme Court ruling in *Behn v. Moulton Contracting Ltd.* [2013] rules that, "the duty to consult exists to protect the collective rights of Aboriginal peoples and is owed to the Aboriginal group that holds them".

## Consultation Screening Process

The Métis would not need to be consulted about every single road being built in British Columbia. Examples of decisions that would necessitate consultation with the Métis would be decisions affecting hunting, fishing, or trapping in British Columbia. Large projects such as pipelines and refineries would most likely necessitate consultation with the Métis as well. These projects cover vast areas and can have wide ranging impacts on hunting, fishing, and trapping.

## Funding

The government must fund Métis consultation efforts in order to create a level playing field for the Métis. Métis in British Columbia will be unable to conduct meaningful consultation without funding from the Crown.

# How do you get involved?

## What are my duties as an Métis person?

*Engagement, Consultation and how to get involved*

Indigenous groups are rights holders who have a distinct relationship with the land. It is our role to provide information to partners in regards to potential effects of the Project on Métis peoples ability to exercise Indigenous rights and any other interests of Indigenous peoples in the Project area. The information we provide to industry partners is considered in the project planning process and evaluated by provincial and federal authorities, including the CER, as part of their regulatory review.

We believe in partnership – this includes working with industry to identify and manage potential effects of their activities and provide a voice for the land. TC Energy also provides business, employment, training opportunities, and supports community-led initiatives of Indigenous groups that focus on safety, community, environment and education.

### Engagement can look like:

Once a route is proposed, feedback received through stakeholder, landowner and Indigenous engagement informs the assessment of proposed routes and sites.

TC Energy will track and report their progress on regulatory conditions with the CER and follow up on the commitments made to honour the relationships built with Indigenous groups, communities and landowners.

During pipeline construction there is an increase in traffic in and around the project area as well as heavy equipment onsite for earthworks, material handling/hauling, welding and testing. TC Energy must adhere to construction plans and the Environmental Protection Plan to ensure that the impacts of construction activities on communities are minimized.

# Engagement Opportunities

DESCRIPTION OF WORK	START DATE	END DATE
<b>PHASE 1</b>		
Virtual Town Hall/Information Sessions	2020	April 2021
<b>PHASE 2</b>		
Land Use Studies and Traditional Knowledge Gathering	April 2021	September 2021
<b>PHASE 3</b>		
Community Outreach and Education	April 2021	March 2022

BC Métis Federation is engaging with industry partners to better understand their environmental conservation, local community support, and long-term effects of their projects on the land. An important part of this process is speaking with Métis individuals, families and communities who are interacting with the land in any capacity, but especially in traditional and cultural activities.

Engagement opportunities exist throughout the lifecycle of these projects. Currently, there are many different ways to get involved. If you live in the project area, self-identify as Metis, and would like to understand more about these projects and what they mean for your community please reach out to us at [research@bcmetis.com](mailto:research@bcmetis.com)

# What about camps

## Temporary work space & accommodations

### *What happens during and after construction?*

Many of these industry projects include the use of temporary work space and, where required, workforce accommodations purpose-built to support construction. Where TC energy plans include these features, they also begin the conversation with potentially affected stakeholders early on to hear and understand community interests.

Access to-and-from the site is planned based on a number of factors including finding the safest and most efficient routes to the work site, existing infrastructure, new infrastructure required to support construction, and municipal planning.

Access planning is refined throughout project development and final plans are communicated to communities prior to work starting.

Once construction is completed, the impacted land area including the temporary work space and workforce accommodation areas is reclaimed to an equivalent land capability so that it can support various uses such as wildlife habitat or agricultural purposes, similar to the ability that existed previously. Measures are taken to prevent topsoil/surface material loss from wind and water erosion and to establish a vegetative cover native to the surrounding vegetation and land use. After the facilities are constructed, there will be minimal traffic associated with ongoing operations and maintenance.



# Next Steps:

*Upcoming Engagement Opportunities - See back page for contact information*

## 1 **Town Hall Meetings**

Make sure you're signed up to receive emails & invitations from BCMF, attend town halls that discuss Industry projects to stay informed.

## 2 **Partner Communities**

Identify Métis Individuals and families living near the project sites, get involved with your local community and discuss projects with other community members.

## 3 **Land Use Studies**

Visit with Métis land owners, and Métis persons interacting with the land. If you would like to participate in land use studies, please contact [research@bcmetis.com](mailto:research@bcmetis.com).

## 4 **Speak out**

Address any concerns, or estimated impacts on livelihood, cultural activities, or additional environmental impacts. Share this information with BCMF.

## 5 **Education**

Stay informed about project timelines and activities. Review maps and understand which areas are included in the project site. Review reports from previous projects and Emergency Response Plans

## 6 **Communication**

Work closely with the BCMF to have your concerns heard, and attend virtual community meetings for further information. In-person meetings will resume once it is deemed safe to travel.



# BCMF INDUSTRY PROJECTS

**FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES:**  
[EMPLOYMENT@BCMETIS.COM](mailto:EMPLOYMENT@BCMETIS.COM)

**CONTRACTOR OPPORTUNITIES:**  
[PROCUREMENT@BCMETIS.COM](mailto:PROCUREMENT@BCMETIS.COM)

**FOR NEWS & UPDATES OR PROJECT  
QUESTIONS:**  
[RESEARCH@BCMETIS.COM](mailto:RESEARCH@BCMETIS.COM)

**FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AND  
RESOURCES:**  
[BCMETIS.COM/INDUSTRY-ENGAGEMENT](https://bcmetis.com/industry-engagement)