



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

MAY 9 2006

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released their Tribal Consultation Policy on October 18, 2005. The policy establishes standards to guide us in working effectively with tribes and tribal organizations and will help ensure increased tribal access to CDC programs and resources. The policy also outlines several venues for tribal consultation and information exchange with CDC staff and leadership that maximize both tribal and CDC staff participation. We believe that tribal partnerships will be strengthened through increased opportunities for tribal input into CDC's decision-making processes. One key venue for information exchange is the CDC Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC). I am excited to reach out to you at this time as we begin the process of identifying TCAC members.

The purpose of the TCAC as stated in our policy is to provide an ongoing means for tribal representatives and CDC staff to exchange information about public health issues in Indian country, identify urgent public health needs in American Indian/Alaska Native communities, and discuss collaborative approaches to addressing these issues and needs.

In September of 2005, CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHD) established a cooperative agreement with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) to assist CDC in developing partnerships with Indian country. CDC is asking NIHB and the Area Tribal Health Boards (or Tribal Coalitions) to help identify tribal leaders to serve as TCAC members. We anticipate that the inaugural TCAC meeting will be held during the summer of 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. I encourage you to review the CDC Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) for more in-depth information about the TCAC. The TCP can be found on the OMHD website by clicking on the following url: <http://www.cdc.gov/omh/Populations/AIAN/TribaConsultationPolicy.pdf>. If you have any questions about this request or the TCP, please contact Capt. Pelagie ("Mike") Snesrud, R.N., Senior Tribal Liaison for Policy and Evaluation, pws8@cdc.gov, (404) 498-2343. I look forward to working with the CDC Tribal Consultation Committee and to strengthening CDC's partnership with Indian country. Enclosed is information that you will find helpful, to include Q&As about Tribal Consultation Policy, the TCAC announcement, and a TCAC nomination form.

Thank you for helping us in this important endeavor and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention, and
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry

Enclosure