



NOV 06 2003

Dear Tribal Leader:

As the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), I am committed to productive, enduring relationships with all of the Tribes we serve. To foster this goal, I have committed the IHS to supporting a meeting to be planned and conducted by the Tribes in the IHS system that continue to receive health care principally from the Agency. I have frequently heard from representatives of the Direct Service Tribes that there are no appropriate national forums dealing with health and related issues of primary interest and concern to these Tribes. The upcoming meeting will focus on these issues.

I anticipate that a Tribal planning committee, consisting of representatives from the Direct Service Tribes, will be convened later this year and will make plans for a meeting to be held early in 2004. The committee will be responsible for determining the date, location, and agenda for the meeting. The IHS is prepared to provide assistance as needed and requested.

I will update you further once this important meeting initiative is underway.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles W. Grim, DDS".

Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Director