



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

October 2, 2008

Dear Tribal Leader,

On behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), I would like to invite you to participate in the 2nd Biannual Tribal Consultation Session to be hosted by the Tohono O'Odham Nation on November 20, 2008 in Tucson, AZ..

I was pleased that some of you were able to attend the 1st CDC Consultation held on February 28th here in Atlanta. During that meeting, over 45 tribal leaders provided important testimony to CDC leaders that has assisted us in being responsive to issues identified. Subsequently, CDC's Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC) met in April in Rapid City, SD (hosted by the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board and Pine Ridge Reservation) and most recently in July (hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida). Each of these meetings has resulted in additional opportunities for CDC leadership and staff to visit with AI/AN tribes and communities to strengthen our understanding and increase collaborative activities to address priority public health issues. Some of the issues and initiatives discussed include: Diabetes, Cancer, Suicide, Cancer, PanFlu and Vulnerable Populations in Tribal Communities, Smoking and Health, Environmental Health, and other Chronic Diseases.

A highlight of the July TCAC Meeting were the presentations by six Native Public Health Summer Fellows who participated in an inaugural 8 week internship at CDC co-sponsored by the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), Morehouse School of Medicine, and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. This program began a pipeline to increase the number of Natives participating in public health student programs at CDC. Each of these students made an immeasurable impact that will continue to have ripple effects as we go forward in increasing the diversity of the public health workforce.

We appreciate greatly the time, commitment, and guidance provided to CDC by the TCAC and ask that you join the TCAC, NIHB, Area Indian Health Boards, and CDC in the upcoming TCAC Meeting and Consultation Session. For more in-depth information about CDC's Tribal Consultation Policy and the TCAC, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/omhd/TCAC/TCAC.html> . If you have any questions about the upcoming Consultation Session, please contact CAPT Pelagie ("Mike") Snesrud, RN, Senior Tribal Liaison for Policy and Evaluation, pws8@cdc.gov, 404-498-2343. I look forward to continue to strengthen CDC's partnership with Indian country.

Sincerely,

Julie Louise Gerberding, MD, MPH
Director, Center for Disease Control and Prevention
and Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry