

The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) provides leadership, guidance, and recommendations to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and other government agencies on issues related to diabetes and related chronic health conditions among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN).

The creation of the TLDC

The Director of the IHS established the TLDC in 1998 in response to the successful partnership between IHS and Tribal Leaders in establishing the process for distributing the *Special Diabetes Program for Indians* (SDPI) funds. By creating this committee, the Director sought to foster an ongoing dialogue between IHS and Tribal leadership on matters related to diabetes, chronic health conditions, and other health issues in AI/AN.

The TLDC is an important outcome of the SDPI and demonstrates the true spirit of ongoing partnership between Tribal and IHS leadership.

The role of the TLDC

As an advisory body to the IHS Director, the TLDC:

- Makes recommendations on diabetes-related policy and advocacy issues.
- Provides advice and guidance to ensure that appropriate cultural traditions and values are incorporated in program development, research, and community-based activities.
- Offers guidance to other organizations—such as Federal agencies and organizations, states, Tribal epidemiology centers, institutions of higher learning, and private health organizations—on how they can help address diabetes and related chronic health conditions among American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Serves as a Tribal advisory committee to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Native Diabetes Wellness Program.

Membership of the TLDC

The TLDC includes:

- One elected or appointed Tribal official (and alternate) from each of the 12 IHS administrative areas (voting members).
- One IHS representative (voting member).
- One representative (and alternate) from each of the following organizations (non-voting members):
 - » National Indian Health Board
 - » National Congress of American Indians
 - » Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee
 - » Direct Service Tribes
 - » National Council of Urban Indian Health

“It is rewarding to see the progress that has been made in diabetes prevention and care with the Special Diabetes Program for Indians in Tribal communities. With SDPI funds, Tribes have shown that we can change the diabetes landscape. Now, we can implement diabetes prevention programs that are as successful as the NIH’s Diabetes Prevention Program clinical trial. Now, we can work closely and intensively with our people with diabetes to lower their risk of cardiovascular disease. These success stories were unimaginable 13 years ago when SDPI started! With all this progress, we are hopeful and encouraged that indeed, one day we will stop diabetes.”

— Buford Rolin,
Co-Chair and Nashville Area Representative
IHS Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee and Chairman
Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Alabama

Buford Rolin of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the current Co-Chair. Alvin Windy Boy Sr. of the Chippewa Cree Tribe was the first Chair of the TLDC.

TLDC Contact Information

Buford Rolin, Co-Chair and Nashville Area Representative
Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee
c/o IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention
5300 Homestead Road NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
T 505.248.4182 • F 505.248.4188
Email: diabetesprogram@ihs.gov
Web: www.ihs.gov/medicalprograms/diabetes