DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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

OCT 29 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), I invite you to participate in the 4th Biannual Tribal Consultation Session hosted by CDC in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 28, 2010. As in the past, CDC's Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC) Meeting also will occur in conjunction with the Tribal Consultation Session during January 26–27, 2009.

The Tribal Consultation Session and TCAC Meeting provide a valuable and ongoing forum for tribal leaders to speak openly with CDC leadership and subject-matter experts about public health issues that affect American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations and communities. Your input is very important to CDC as we work to improve and strengthen our organization's ability to protect the nation's health. As diligent stewards of public trust, we ensure that our research and services are based on sound science resulting in public health practices that address real public health needs. CDC remains committed to increasing tribal access to CDC programs and services, increasing partnerships with Tribes and AI/AN organizations, and respecting the sovereignty of AI/AN Tribes by working on a government-to-government basis to uphold the federal trust responsibility.

In addition, I hope some of you were able to participate in CDC's Tribal Consultation Session held in Anchorage, Alaska, in August. Although the complete meeting minutes have not been released, I have received preliminary reports from senior CDC leaders who attended, and I plan to report back to you about how tribal recommendations and statements have influenced CDC initiatives and activities. I invite and encourage you to participate in the series of scheduled planning calls for the upcoming consultation session, which will be convened by the Office of the Director/Senior Tribal Liaisons beginning on November 6 and continuing on November 20, December 4, December 18, January 8, and January 15, so that we can develop an agenda for CDC's Tribal Consultation that will focus on public health issues concerning you most. Please note that all planning calls will take place at 3:00–4:30 p.m. EDT. The toll-free conference call number for each call is (877) 314-9621 and the passcode is 339872#.

Please visit CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities' Webpage to review past TCAC recommendations and meeting minutes from Biannual Tribal Consultation Sessions: www.cdc.gov/omhd/TCAC/BiannualSessions/BiannualSessions.html. If you have any questions about the upcoming consultation session, please contact CAPT Pelagie (Mike) Snesrud, Senior Tribal Liaison for Policy and Evaluation, at pws8@cdc.gov or (404) 498-2343, or CAPT Ralph Bryan, Senior Tribal Liaison for Science and Public Health, at rrb2@cdc.gov or (505) 248-4132.

Thank you, and we look forward to your participation in these important upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, CDC, and
Administrator, ATSDR