



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
1220 SW 3rd AVENUE, Room 476
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

MAY 28 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

Effective Monday, June 1, Ms. Doni Wilder will resume her responsibilities as Director of the Portland Area Indian Health Service (IHS). Since her departure in late February, to serve at the Agency's Headquarters as Acting Deputy Director, I have had the privilege of working with you as the Portland Area's Acting Director.

These past three months have been a noteworthy time. In mid-February Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Within a very compressed timeframe Tribal and Federal staff succeeded in developing significant project and equipment proposals. Also, on April 17, the Portland Area Fund Distribution Workgroup (FDWG) met to consider distribution methodologies for an increase in contract health service dollars. The FDWG will meet again, too, on June 18, to discuss how to distribute nearly \$1.8 million in Methamphetamine/Suicide Prevention Initiative funds. On April 26 the Centers for Disease Control declared a public health emergency due to the rising number of cases of H1N1 influenza. That triggered activation of the Portland Area Pandemic Flu Plan and formation of a joint incident support team. Other events in late April and early May included the triennial accreditation of two of the six Federal clinics operated by the Portland Area IHS, Western Oregon and Warm Springs. The other four clinics are scheduled or expected to be surveyed at some point throughout the remainder of this year and early 2010.

As the Acting Area Director I have watched Tribal and Federal staff rise to every challenge of the past three unusually challenging months. Working with you and with Tribal staff has been an honor and a pleasure. I look forward to continuing collaboration and opportunities to serve you as I return to my position as Director of the Area's Office of Tribal and Service Unit Operations.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
Acting Area Director