



AUG 18 2009

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

Dear Tribal Leaders:

At the request of the Director of Indian Health Service (IHS), I will be temporarily leaving my position as Portland Area Director to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. My assignment begins September 14, 2009 and will last for a minimum of three months. I am very fortunate to be accompanied on this assignment by my assistant, Mr. Steven Poitra. During my absence Dean Seyler, Executive Officer, will serve as acting Area Director. Ms. Armina Wise will serve as Secretary to the acting Director during Mr. Poitra's absence.

I feel very humbled by the confidence the Director has placed in me by asking me to take on this very challenging assignment. But I also know that an important part of the reason I am asked is the staff in the Portland Area Office. We have worked hard to provide training and experience to individuals so they are ready when leadership opportunities arise, and our efforts have paid off over the last two years when, during my two assignments at IHS Headquarters, Ms. Roselyn Tso and CAPT Leslie Dye stepped up to serve as acting Area Director. I am confident Mr. Seyler will perform in the same exceptional manner as these two dedicated individuals.

Much of the Area Office staff's success is due to the steady, wise guidance and support they receive from Dr. Clark Marquart, Deputy Director and Chief Medical Officer. Other long-time senior staff in the Area Office who have played key supporting roles for the Area Director include Rich Truitt, Director, Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, Sharlene Andrew, Finance Officer, Martha Young, Senior Contracting Officer, Jonathan Hubbard, Chief Information Officer, and Terry Dean, Special Assistant to the Director. My thanks to these individuals and the other dedicated Portland Area Office staff.

I also thank Portland Area Tribal leadership, Delegates to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and Tribal and NPAIHB staff who have expressed their support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Doni Wilder
Area Director