



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

August 27, 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) tribal consultation policy was signed by Secretary Eric K. Shinseki on February 4, 2011. The Department is initiating the final tribal consultation for this fiscal year. The consultation session will coincide with the National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference and will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at the Denver Sheraton, Denver, CO. VA is initiating consultation to request your input to enhance the delivery of services to American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans. Tribal consultation topics include:

Veterans Benefits Administration, Native American Direct Loan Program: The Native American Veteran Direct Loan Program (NADL), created by Congress in 1992, enables eligible Veterans the opportunity to use their VA home loan guaranty benefit on Federal trust land. VA is seeking recommendations from Tribes for increasing awareness and utilization of this loan program.

Veterans Health Administration, VA/ Indian Health Service Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The VA-IHS MOU was signed by Dr. Robert Petzel, VA Under Secretary for Health and Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director, Indian Health Service on October 1, 2010. The purpose of the MOU is to enhance the health care status of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans through the delivery of accessible and quality health care services. VA is seeking recommendations from Tribes for increasing tribal government involvement in the MOU workgroups and workgroup activities at the national and local levels.

The tribal consultation session will be held on **Monday, September 24, 2012** at the Denver Sheraton at 8:00am in the Grand Ballroom. The hotel is located at 1500 Court Place, Denver, CO 20024.

Written comments should be submitted to the email address listed below no later than 45 days from the date of this letter, tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov. For any questions please feel free to contact the Office of Tribal Government Relations at (202) 461-7400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John M. Garcia", is written over the typed name and title.

John M. Garcia
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental
Affairs