



MAR 12 2012

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

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 four Tribal consultation sessions this year, through each of the VA administrations. 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.

**National Cemetery Administration, Tribal Cemetery Grants:** In 2010 a proposal to implement PL 109-461; Sec. 403 which states "Eligibility of Indian Tribal Organizations to apply for Grants for the Establishment of Veterans Cemeteries on Trust Lands". This stipulates that Grants to Tribal Organizations will be made in the same manner, and under the same conditions, as grants to States under the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program. VA is seeking recommendations for increasing outreach and awareness of the cemetery grant program in addition to seeking input on challenges Tribes experience in applying for these grants.

**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.

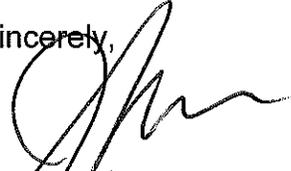
The first tribal consultation session will be held on **Thursday, April 5, 2012** at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel at 9:00am. The hotel is located at 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

Additional consultation sessions are listed below :

May 25, 2012: Dena'ina Center, Anchorage, Alaska  
June 2012: Lincoln, Nebraska  
September 2012: Denver, Colorado

Written comments should be submitted to the email address listed below not later than 45 days from the date of this letter, [tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov](mailto: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 black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Garcia', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

John M. Garcia  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Intergovernmental Affairs