



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

JAN 19 2017

PORLAND AREA  
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE  
1414 NW NORTHRUP, Suite 800  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97209

Mr. Robert Kelly, Jr.  
Chairman  
Nooksack Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 157  
Deming, WA 98244

Dear Chairman Kelly:

On November 18, 2016, and December 13, 2016, the Indian Health Service sent you letters regarding the need for the Nooksack Indian Tribe (Tribe) to continue to provide health care services for the enrolled members the Tribe was disenrolling. As indicated in the December 13, 2016, it appears that subsequent actions to disenroll these members by the Nooksack Tribal Council lacked a sufficient quorum and were done in violation of the Tribe's own Constitution and bylaws. The Tribal Council's lack of a quorum has also interfered with the Agency's ability to negotiate and enter into a new annual funding agreement under the Tribe's Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contract.

In response to the Nooksack Tribe's recent actions, and the Tribe's failure to respond to the Agency's requests in the letters referenced above, the Contracting Officer, Ms. Imogene Ingawanup, has issued the enclosed notice to the Tribe. Please note the timeframe that a response is required in order to not place the Tribe's current contract in jeopardy.

I am ready to meet with the Tribal Council to further understand the position of the Nooksack Tribe and hopefully resolve this matter amicably.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Imogene Ingawanup, Contracting Officer, by telephone at (503) 414-5555.

Sincerely,

Dean M. Seyler  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Tribal Council members, Nooksack Indian Tribe