



## **Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe**

483 Great Neck Rd. South, Mashpee, MA 02649

Phone (508) 477-0208 Fax (508) 477-1218

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paula Gates, Regan Communications  
617-488-2853 (w) 617-869-4052 (c)  
[pgates@regancomm.com](mailto:pgates@regancomm.com)

### **Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Member Cheryl Frye-Cromwell To Receive National Award for Health Service Work**

(Mashpee, MA – November 18, 2013) – Cheryl Frye-Cromwell, Government Health Liaison for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, will be honored today by the Indian Health Service (IHS), a division of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, for her “leadership, support and partnership in support of Direct Service Tribes.”

Today, Frye-Cromwell will receive the IHS Director’s Special Recognition Tribal Leadership/Partnership Award in Washington, DC. The IHS Director’s Special Recognition Awards were created to honor those who partner with IHS and who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in public health leadership, federal leadership, and organizational leadership.

“The award reflects my sincere appreciation to you for your leadership, support and partnership in support of Direct Service Tribes,” Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Director of the federal Indian Health Service, said of Frye-Cromwell.

“I’m very honored to be recognized at this level,” said Frye-Cromwell. “It shows that I’m doing what I need to be doing as an elected official for my tribe.”

A long-time leader both locally and nationally, Frye-Cromwell was elected to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council in 2004 and has since focused on improving the tribe’s health services. Since the Mashpee Wampanoag’s Federal Recognition in 2007, she has worked on behalf of the Tribe as the Tribal liaison to the Indian Health Service and other federal, state and local agencies, with a goal to build the capacity and resources for health care services for the Tribe. Frye-Cromwell works with the Health Director, Health Advisory Committee, Indian Health Service and other federal, state and local agencies, and as a member of the USET – United South and Eastern Tribes and NCAI – National Congress of American Indian Organizations. In 2010, Cheryl was appointed to the Direct Service Tribe’s Advisory Committee (DSTAC) to represent the Nashville Area Direct Service Tribes, where she has been elevated to the position of vice-chair and been a strong advocate for all initiatives and priorities of the committee.

more

Frye-Cromwell played an instrumental role in implementing health care services for her tribal members by opening their first Direct Service Tribes Health Clinic in 2011. In the same year, she was appointed to U.S. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius's Tribal Advisory committee (STAC), the first tribal advisory committee established to advise the Secretary in the history of HHS. There she is joined by tribal leaders who are charged to advocate and advise the secretary of the barriers in healthcare/Human Services as indigenous people. Frye-Cromwell has recently met with the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee in Washington to initiate a meeting among the DSTAC and the TSGAC.

Earlier this month, Frye-Cromwell and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe hosted Indian Health Services Director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, and Tribal leaders from 10 regions across the country, for the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC) national conference and quarterly meeting on the topic of Indian Health Services, held at the Sea Crest Hotel in Falmouth.

Frye-Cromwell, a trained emergency medical technician, has worked toward the goal of having the majority of tribal members get their primary care from the Mashpee Wampanoag clinic, with the ultimate goal of tribal self-sufficiency. She recently helped the tribe open a dental clinic in Mashpee. Additionally, she was an integral part of the Harvard University Native American High School Summer Program, where tribal youth from across Indian Country gathered for a three-week Psychopharmacology course at Harvard University.

Prior to joining the Tribal Council, Frye-Cromwell worked in the Mashpee Public Schools Indian Education Program. An avid Tribal Education Committee Liaison for over 10 years, she has worked diligently with her tribe's Education Committee in developing the first Tribal Education Department and has just recently received the tribe's first HHS/ACF Tribal Childcare grant.

In the past five years, Frye-Cromwell has additionally received recognition awards from the Area Director for Volunteer Service and the Tribal/Urban Leader Award.

**About the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe:**

*The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, known as the People of the First Light, has inhabited present day Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years. After an arduous process lasting more than three decades, the Mashpee Wampanoag were re-acknowledged as a federally recognized tribe in 2007 and retain full tribal sovereignty rights. The Mashpee tribe currently has approximately 2,600 enrolled citizens.*

###