

Michael S. Black
Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

Michael S. Black, an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, was named the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on April 26, 2010. Mr. Black directs is responsible for carrying out the core BIA mission to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in 566 federally-recognized tribes.

As Director, Mr. Black oversees BIA programs that support Tribal sovereignty and self-determination across Indian Country. The Office of Indian Services operates the BIA's general assistance, disaster relief, Indian child welfare, tribal government, Indian Self-Determination, and reservation roads programs. The Office of Justice Services directly operates or funds law enforcement, tribal courts, and detention facilities on Federal Indian lands. The Office of Trust Services works with tribes and individual American Indians and Alaska Natives in the management of their trust lands, assets, and resources. The Office of Field Operations oversees 12 regional offices and 83 agencies which carry out the mission of the Bureau at the tribal level.

Mr. Black was the Regional Director for the BIA's Great Plains Regional Office in Aberdeen, South Dakota, which oversees 12 agencies that together serve 16 Federally-recognized tribes in three states (Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota) from 2008-2010. He served as the as the Deputy Regional Director for Indian Services in the Bureau's Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Billings, Montana from 2004-2008, during which time he also served a period of eight months as the acting Great Plains Regional Director.

Mr. Black began his Federal career in 1987 with the BIA's Aberdeen Area Office (now the Great Plains Regional Office) as a General Engineer in the Branch of Facilities Management. He went on to hold regional facility and engineering management positions in the Billings Area Office (now the Rocky Mountain Regional Office) until being named the Deputy Regional Director.