



## **U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs**

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Indian Education

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### **Biographical Statement of Michael S. Black Director, 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 appointed Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior on April 25, 2010. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Black had served as Acting BIA Director since March 18, 2010.

Reporting to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, the BIA Director is responsible for managing the Bureau's day-to-day operations through the Office of Indian Services, the Office of Justice Services and the Office of Trust Services, which administer or fund infrastructure, law enforcement, social services, tribal governance, natural and energy resources and trust management programs for federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in 33 states, as well as through Field Operations, which oversees the Bureau's 12 regional offices and 85 agencies.

Prior to becoming the acting BIA director, Mr. Black had served since July 20, 2008, as Regional Director of the Bureau's Great Plains Regional Office in Aberdeen, S.D., following an eight-month appointment starting in June 2007 as the acting regional director. The office oversees 12 agencies serving 16 federally recognized tribes in Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Mr. Black began his federal career in 1987 with the BIA's Aberdeen Area Office (now the Great Plains Regional Office) as General Engineer in the Branch of Facilities Management. From 1992 to 2001, he worked in the BIA's Billings Area Office (now the Rocky Mountain Regional Office) as Regional Facility Manager where he was responsible for facilities construction and operations and maintenance programs. In December 2001, he was named Chief of the Regional Office's Division of Engineering, where he was responsible for regional facility management, road construction, and road maintenance and safety programs.

In January 2004, Mr. Black was promoted to the post of Deputy Regional Director-Indian Services for the Rocky Mountain Region, where he was responsible for the management and oversight of Road Construction, Road Maintenance, Tribal Government Services, Credit, Housing, Self-Determination, Social Services, Safety, and Environmental and Cultural Resources Management programs.

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Mr. Black graduated from Aberdeen Central High School in 1982. He received a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1986.