



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 06 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

Throughout my tenure as Assistant Secretary, I have heard from tribal leaders that organizational changes are needed to the administration of Indian Affairs programs and services to better meet the needs of tribes throughout Indian Country. I am writing today to inform you that we have listened to your concerns and have undertaken an extensive review of the organization of the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

The culmination of our review is a draft Administrative Organizational Assessment Report compiled by a third-party contractor. The draft report identifies several ways to streamline our organization and increase efficiency in the delivery of services to Indian Country. Our goal is to support a consolidated organization while improving our responsiveness to all tribes' needs.

In keeping with the Department's Tribal Consultation Policy, I would like to solicit your input on the proposed organizational changes. The BIE also will conduct consultation on the Johnson-O'Malley Student Count Update and the Draft SF-424B Assurance Statement – Non-Construction Programs.

We are laboring under strict budget deadlines, but I respectfully ask you to find time to provide your tribe's input on these critical issues by submitting written comments or by attending one of the consultation sessions noted below. Please send any written comments you have to consultation@bia.gov or by U.S. mail to: Organizational Streamlining Comments, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 4141 MIB, Washington, DC 20240. If possible, please provide your input by close of business on May 25, 2012, as we are preparing for implementation of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget, which begins on October 1, 2012.

Thank you for your prompt and invaluable attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosures

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Date	Location
April 12 – April 13, 2012	Miccosukee Resort and Gaming 500 SW 177 th Ave. Miami, FL 33194 (866) 599-6674 When booking use: “Bureau of Indian Affairs”
April 19 – April 20, 2012	Radisson Fort McDowell Resort Hotel 10438 N. Fort McDowell Road Scottsdale/Fountain Hill, AZ 85264 (480) 789-5300 When booking use: “Bureau of Indian Affairs Streamline Consultation”
April 26 – April 27, 2012	Northern Quest Resort & Casino 100 N. Hayford Road Airway Heights, WA 99001 (509) 481-6166
May 3 – May 4, 2012	Holiday Inn Rapid City-Rushmore Plaza 505 N. 5 th Street Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 348-4000
May 10 – May 11, 2012	Choctaw Casino Resort 4216 S. Hwy 69/75 Durant, OK 74701 (580) 931-8340
May 17 – May 18, 2012	Thunder Valley Casino Resort 1200 Athens Avenue Lincoln, CA 95648 (877) 468-8777 When booking use: “120516BURE”

The agenda for each of the sessions will be as follows (all times are local):

Day 1 Agenda		
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Administrative Organizational Assessment Draft Report	AS-IA
10:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.	BIA Streamlining Plan	BIA
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)	---

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	BIA Streamlining Plan (continued)	BIA
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	BIE Streamlining Plan	BIE
Day 2 Agenda		
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Johnson-O'Malley Student Count Update	BIE
	Draft SF-424B Assurance Statement – Non-Construction Programs	

A description of each of the topics is provided below. Additional information is posted at: <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/index.htm>.

- The Administrative Organizational Assessment Draft Report: The AS-IA is seeking input on the results of the Administrative Organizational Assessment Draft Report. The Assessment was conducted by an impartial third-party contractor, the Bronner Group, LLC, to evaluate the administrative support structures for BIA and BIE. The Draft Report includes a number of recommendations in the following functional areas: budget and financial management; acquisition and contract management; property management and building maintenance; human resources; safety management; and communications. More information on the Administrative Organizational Assessment Draft Report is available at the website listed above.
- The BIA Streamlining Plan: The BIA is seeking tribal input on ways to streamline its organization to meet budgetary constraints and increase efficiency in the delivery of services to tribes and Indian beneficiaries. The BIA is particularly interested in tribes' perspectives on consolidation of agency or field offices with minimal staffing and/or services, and consolidation of regional office programs or services where efficiencies may be achieved.
- The BIE Streamlining Plan: The BIE is seeking tribal input on ways to streamline its organization to meet imminent budgetary constraints and to improve the quality of education provided to students served by BIE-funded schools.
- The Johnson-O'Malley Student Count Update: The BIE is seeking tribal input on updating its count of students eligible for Johnson-O'Malley Program funding. As part of the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations, Congress directed the BIE, in consultation with tribes and the U.S. Department of Education, to update its count of students eligible for the Johnson-O'Malley Program funding, and to report the results to Congress.

- The Draft SF-424B Assurance Statement – Non-Construction Programs: The BIE is seeking tribal input on revision of provisions of the SF-424B Assurance Statement for P.L. 100-297 Tribally Controlled Grant Schools. The assurance statement accompanies the transfer of funds from the BIE to tribally controlled grant schools. The BIE is particularly interested in tribes' perspectives on adding the following to the assurance statement: "Will comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)."