

Department of the Interior



NEWS

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of the Secretary
For Immediate Release: January 31, 2005

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Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Dave Anderson Announces His Decision to Resign and Resume His Entrepreneur Career

Secretary Gale Norton:

"Convinced Indian Country is Better Off Because You Served"

Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason

to Temporarily Assume Responsibilities of Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

(WASHINGTON) - Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Dave Anderson today announced his decision to resign, effective February 12, 2005.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Assistant Secretary Anderson said that, "I have concluded that I can have the greatest impact to improve the future of Indian Country, not by managing the day-to-day operations of BIA programs, but by focusing my time on developing private sector economic opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs."

In response, Secretary Norton wrote, "It is with both understanding and regret that I received your letter today informing me of your decision to resign as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, effective February 12, 2005."

"On behalf of President Bush, I thank you for your service, and I am convinced that Indian Country is better off because you served. You can take justifiable pride in your efforts to improve Indian education, law enforcement, and trust services. You have also been a terrific role model to young people in Indian Country. I have received many reports from people who have been encouraged by your message of hope, self-reliance, and belief in the personal worth and dignity of each Native American."

Secretary Norton also announced that she will be working with the White House and leaders in Indian Country to select a new Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. In the meantime, Jim Cason, currently Associate Deputy Secretary, will be tasked with fulfilling the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. For the past three-and-a-half-years, Cason has worked extensively on a variety of Indian issues including law enforcement, land management and fractionation, trust responsibilities, historical accounting, and probate.

In his letter to Secretary Norton, Assistant Secretary Dave Anderson said, "Working with President Bush, Bureau of Indian Affairs staff, the more than 560 federally recognized Indian tribes, your staff and you, we made this a year of remarkable progress in Indian Country. Our accomplishments include:

- An additional \$32.4 million in higher education funding was provided for BIA-managed schools as a result of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.
- Key components of the No Child Left Behind Act will be implemented in a soon to be published final rule, following extensive consultation with Indian country.
- A new Replacement School Construction List was developed to establish priority funding for Indian Country schools that have critical health and safety concerns.
- Thousands of safety and security improvements were made in Indian country detention centers.
- A new American Indian Records Repository was dedicated, in order to preserve and consolidate Indian records that are essential to carry out Interior's trust reform responsibilities.
- Ground was broken on a new National Indian Programs Training Center as part of an effort to improve the delivery of federal services to Indian country."

Assistant Secretary Anderson added, "Perhaps more important are the countless opportunities I had to meet with Indian parents, teachers and children to encourage them to reach their potential, to climb the academic ladder of achievement and prepare them to become contributing members of their families and tribes."

Anderson's letter to Secretary Norton concluded by saying "More than you can imagine, I am honored by the trust President Bush and you placed in me by asking me to serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. To lead Indian Country for the past year has been a great honor and valuable experience. As I return to private life, my experiences this past year have better prepared me to encourage all those in Indian Country to achieve their God-given potential."

The letters exchanged between Secretary Norton and Assistant Secretary Anderson can be found at http://www.doi.gov/news/05_News_Releases/anderson.pdf and http://www.doi.gov/news/05_News_Releases/norton.pdf

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Selected News Releases



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 27 2005

The Honorable Dave Anderson
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20549

Dear Dave:

It is with both understanding and regret that I received your letter informing me of your decision to resign as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, effective February 12, 2005.

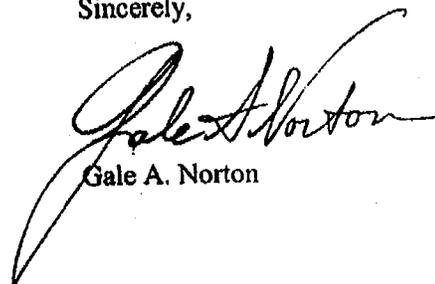
On behalf of President Bush, I thank you for your service, and I am convinced that Indian Country is better off because you served. You can take justifiable pride in your efforts to improve Indian education, law enforcement, and trust services. You have also been a terrific role model to young people in Indian Country. I have received many reports from people who have been encouraged by your message of hope, self-reliance, and belief in the personal worth and dignity of each Native American.

I appreciate your desire to return to the private sector. You have accomplished much: earning a Master's degree from Harvard while creating three publicly traded firms that employ 18,000 people is a confirmation of your enormous skill.

With your broad success in the business world, I have the utmost confidence that you possess keen insights on creating and growing business institutions. I applaud your intention to work with successful Indian entrepreneurs and policy analysts to draft a proposal to promote economic development in Indian Country. I look forward to the opportunity to review the proposal when you have completed your work.

Again, thank you for your service to Indian Country and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Norton



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



JAN 27 2005

The Honorable Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D C 20240

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing to inform you that I will resign as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs effective February 12, 2005.

One year ago I took the oath of office to become the ninth Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs since Congress created this position in the 1970's. Working with President Bush, Bureau of Indian Affairs staff, the more than 560 federally recognized Indian tribes, your staff and you, we made this a year of remarkable progress in Indian Country. Our accomplishments include:

- An additional \$32.4 million in higher education funding provided for BIA-managed schools as a result of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.
- Key components of the No Child Left Behind Act implemented in a soon to be published final rule, following extensive consultation with Indian Country.
- A new Replacement School Construction List developed to establish priority funding for Indian Country schools that have critical health and safety concerns.
- Thousands of safety and security improvements made in Indian Country detention centers.
- A new American Indian Records Repository dedicated, in order to preserve and consolidate Indian records that are essential to carry out Interior's trust reform responsibilities.
- Ground broken on a new National Indian Programs Training Center as part of an effort to improve the delivery of federal services to Indian Country.

Perhaps more important are the countless opportunities I had to meet with Indian parents, teachers, and children to encourage them to reach their potential, to climb the academic ladder of achievement, and prepare them to become contributing members of their families and tribes.

I have concluded that I can have the greatest impact to improve the future of Indian Country, not by managing the day-to-day operations of BIA programs, but by focusing my time on developing private sector economic opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs.

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The Honorable Gale A. Norton

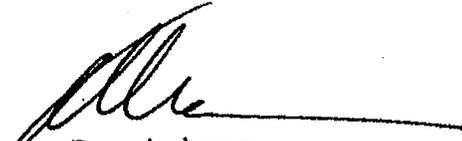
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As you know, before becoming Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, my focus was to serve tribes in the business and commercial development of their resources. I felt that my calling in life was that of an Indian businessman. Creating businesses is where I have been the most successful. I founded three publicly traded companies on Wall Street. I have created over 18,000 new jobs in America.

My experiences as Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs have caused me to build upon my sense of purpose to use my business talents to promote the improved financial health of Indian Country. Upon my return to private life, it is my intention to tap the experiences of other successful Indian entrepreneurs along with academic resources like the Harvard University Nation's Building Program, to develop innovative concepts to promote economic development in Indian Country. Once the concepts are completed, I plan to share them with you. As I know that you are keenly interested in economic development in Indian Country as well, I am confident that you will find the information to be intriguing.

More than you can imagine, I am honored by the trust President Bush and you placed in me by asking me to serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. To lead Indian Country for the past year has been a great honor and valuable experience. As I return to private life, my experiences this past year have better prepared me to encourage all those in Indian Country to achieve their God-given potential.

Sincerely,



Dave Anderson