

# *Official fights child abuse*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A federal Indian official is enlisting Indian tribal leaders and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' employees as part of an intensive program to combat the sexual abuse of Native American children, according to the Department of the Interior.

Eddie F. Brown, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs, has assigned his deputy for operations, Walt Mills, as overall coordinator of BIA's child protection programs.

Mills is charged with ensuring that prompt and effective action is taken on all existing elements of the program of preventing, identifying potential abusers, reporting procedures when abuse is suspected, enforcement and followup psychological care to victims of reported incidents.

Brown said in a letter to tribal leaders that Indian and non-Indian communities alike must develop strong safeguards for the protection of children.