

# Sampsel resigns interior post

Roy Sampsel, Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Policy, announced his resignation effective November 30. In a November 9 letter to Interior Assistant Secretary Ken Smith, Sampsel wrote, "It has been a great honor to have served as your Deputy. I will always cherish the time that I have spent with the Department of the Interior and the close working relationship that I have enjoyed with

the Secretary, Under Secretary, and other Assistant Secretaries within the Department."

Sampsel said he found it necessary to return to the private sector in order to better meet his financial obligations and commitments. "I do not leave believing that the job has been done, but I do leave with the confidence that it can be and will be," he added.

Smith called Sampsel a

strong advocate for Indian tribes and Indian people and said he regretted that Sampsel found it necessary to leave his position. "I consider this a personal loss and will strongly miss his voice in Indian policy matters in the Department and wish him the best of luck in the private sector," Smith said.

"I will be discussing with him in the coming weeks a

smooth transition of his duties and responsibilities," he added. Sampsel, an enrolled member of the Choctaw tribe, joined Interior June 11, 1981. He had his own consulting firm since 1978 and previously served in the Portland Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and as a special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior.