

**Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Office of The Bureau Chief**

CGB

27 April 2004

Honorable Tribal Leaders,
Distinguished Tribal Representatives,
and Indian Telecommunications Initiatives Colleagues,

I send you greetings from the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission. As you may know, for several years the Commission has made working with Indian Country a policy priority. The Commission recognizes the rights of tribal governments to set their own communications priorities and goals for the welfare of their membership, and firmly believes that quality, affordable telecommunications services play a critical role in contributing to future economic opportunities and overall health of tribal communities. As the lead Commission Bureau on working with Indian Country, the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) upholds the important government-to-government principles of our unique relationship with tribes as we undertake our Indian Telecommunications Initiatives (ITI) outreach, coordination, and consultation with Indian Country.

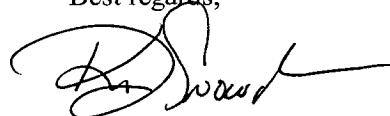
In the spirit of consultation and coordination, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new addition to the FCC's Indian Telecommunications Initiatives, the Tribal Telecom Outreach Newsletter. I have enclosed the first issue of the Newsletter, which we intend to provide to Indian Country on a quarterly basis. As with this first Newsletter it will be a compendium of the important developments at the Commission and items of importance to telecom development in Indian Country. This first issue includes a record of our 2003-2004 outreach efforts in Indian Country, articles of recent FCC training events and forums, the signing of a historic Memorandum of Understanding on tower siting processes, and an honor bestowed upon the Commission by the National Congress of American Indians.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of an upcoming Indian Telecommunications Initiatives training event. In cooperation with the National Tribal Telecommunications Association, an organization of Tribally-owned, operated, and regulated telephone companies, the FCC will host its second Regional Workshop and Roundtable in Rapid City, SD, on May 26 and 27 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The "ITI Rapid City" event is free of charge to registrants and is designed to increase the understanding of essential telecommunications issues and policies affecting Indian Country and to increase tribal consultation on telecommunications issues and policies. Tribal leaders and representatives, planning and economic development managers are encouraged to attend. To register for the FCC's ITI Rapid City Regional Workshop and Roundtable, or to obtain additional information, please call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) press number 4 and follow the prompts, call 202-418-2513, fax 202-418-1414, or e-mail itirapidcity@fcc.gov.

For more information on the FCC's ITI Rapid City Regional Workshop and Roundtable, please contact Geoffrey Blackwell, Senior Attorney and Liaison to Tribal Governments, FCC Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, at 202-418-8192, geoffrey.blackwell@fcc.gov; or Dan Rumelt, Senior Outreach Coordinator, FCC Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division, at 202-418-7512, dan.rumelt@fcc.gov. Updates and further information will also be made available on the FCC's Tribal Initiatives website at: <http://www.fcc.gov/indians>.

As you read this first edition of our Tribal Telecom Outreach Newsletter and learn more about our specific efforts in Indian Country, we encourage you to contact us with further questions and suggestions on how we can better respond to your needs. We welcome opportunities to meet with tribes on their own lands. We have learned in our work with tribes that consultation is part of an ongoing and enduring relationship, not simply one or two conversations. As we look towards continued developments in our intergovernmental work with tribes, we are eager to again work closely with you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Dane Snowden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

K. Dane Snowden

Chief

Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau