



# MEET THE INDIAN AFFAIRS STAFF



## **Jason Smith**

Director of Indian Affairs  
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Jason Smith was appointed by Governor Steve Bullock to serve on his cabinet as State Director of Indian Affairs effective January 7, 2013. He brings

years of experience working with tribes. Prior to his appointment, he worked at the Montana Department of Commerce as the State Tribal Economic Development Program Manager. During the 2009 Montana State Legislature, he served as Chief of Staff to the Montana American Indian Caucus. Before that he served as Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation. Smith also worked at the Native American Development Corporation in Billings. He graduated from the Salish Kootenai College with a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Entrepreneurship in 2006.

Jason is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and a descendant of the Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck. He is the son of Monica Caye of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and Leonard Smith of the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes.



## **Rhonda Fenner**

Administrative Officer  
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Rhonda Fenner joined the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs July 2011. Rhonda previously worked for the Native American Bank in

Browning and Wells Fargo Bank on Prince of Wales Island in Alaska, as a teller, opening accounts and loan processing. Prior to that, she worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency as a program technician for 13 years in Hill County and Pondera County, helping to serve the Chippewa Cree and Blackfeet Tribes. Seasonally, she was an enumerator for Agricultural Statistics Bureau and dispatched for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry. Rhonda is a descendant of the Blackfeet Tribe and was born on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana. She graduated from Montana State University-Northern in 1994 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Agricultural Technology and an Associate of Science degree in Business Technology.

Rhonda is the daughter of Ida Rodriguez and John "Doughboy" Monroe. She has three grown children Dale Jr., Jonni Jo and Tyrel.