

Tiedeman elected chairman of Anchorage Native Caucus

Bruce Tiedeman was elected last week to lead the Anchorage Native Caucus as it seeks a greater role for Native Alaskans in municipality life. Tiedeman, a summertime commercial fisherman and wintertime business, management and educational consultant, replaces Pat Anderson as president of the caucus.

Anderson, an attorney, chose not to run this year as he was recently appointed by Mayor Tony Knowles to serve as the legislative lobbyist for the municipality of Anchorage.

Mayor Jane Peterson was chosen as vice president, Florene Booth as secretary, Ruth Williard as treasurer, and Willie Templeton as sergeant at arms. Dea Halkett and Dan Perry were elected as at-large members of the caucus.

"Our role is similar to that of the federation," Tiedeman explains the purpose of the caucus. "The Alaska Federation of Natives is an advocate for all Natives, statewide. We are an advocate for all Natives living in the Anchorage area."

Tiedeman notes that the caucus will seek greater involve-

ment and influence in municipality government. "Mayor Knowles has publicly and in the press stated that he intends to work with and help Natives on issues. Many Natives have supported Mayor Knowles, and now we expect him to support us."

Among the prime issues faced by the caucus are housing, employment, education, and fair treatment. "We're going to take a close look at affirmative action plans in state and local governments," says Tiedeman. Agencies have fallen "tremendously" short in the hiring of Natives, he stresses.

"They have done fairly well with the blacks, but the blacks were more organized earlier than we. Now it is our turn to organize." Tiedeman also hopes the caucus can be effective in reducing stereotypes held by the public concerning Native Alaskans.

"The public seems to associate Natives in one of two ways," he explains. "As the rich Native of the corporation, or as the Fourth Avenue stereotype. It's always high class

or low class. They forget the majority of us are in the majority of us are in the mainstream"

Tiedeman believes the Natives in what he calls Alaska's largest village can make a difference, if they are organ-

ized, and make themselves heard.

Tiedeman, who was born and raised in Cordova,