

Tiepelman quits AFN to return to Kotzebue

By LINDA LORD-JENKINS

Tundra Times Editor

Dennis Tiepelman, who has represented the Alaska Federation of Natives in Washington D.C. for the past year, will leave that job this spring to return to Kotzebue.

Tiepelman, who grew up in Kotzebue and worked for the NANA Regional Corporation there, said he has been asked to act as a staff coordinator for the NANA Region's Inupiat Spirit Committee, but his name also has been mentioned for the Kotzebue Community College presidency.

In his letter of resignation, Tiepelman said he wants to return to his home and the lifestyle provided him in the past. "My desire to return to Alaska is based on my own personal reasons to live a lifestyle that the Arctic environment provided for me in the past. My family and especially my daughter reminds me from time to time as to why I left "home" in the first place. In the end, it is probably a composite of work and personal factors that are never easy to explain."

Tiepelman recommended that the Washington D.C. office be kept open to continue the personal presence of an Alaska Native group in the nation's capital but the board decided against that.

He included an article appearing in the Washington Post newspaper which wrote of the many lobbyist offices being

closed by various business firms.

He said last week that he had spent much of his time getting acquainted with the Washington way of doing things and with the people who make the decisions and the people who carry them out. He makes frequent reports to AFN on national concerns.

He said that he believes Alaska Native interests will be well served if two Alaska men being considered for jobs in the federal administration are appointed.

One is Douglas MacArthur, an Ahtna Regional Corp. board member who has been recommended by AFN for the job of special assistant to Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Ken Smith, dealing in trust responsibility. According to a memo from AFN Executive Vice President Janie Leask, MacArthur's name has been recommended formally and formal action on the nomination is expected.

Clifford Black, a former vice president for AFN and the current Alaska area representative for the National Congress of American Indians, is being recommended for a position in the Department of Housing and Urban Development but no action has been taken.

The board did not make a recommendation to fill a vacancy in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Protection Office which was left open when Eric Morrison left his position.