

Larry Peterson Off and Running From District 16

A Fort Yukon native who feels that he knows the problems of both urban and rural Alaska would like to help solve these problems as a representative in the State House.

Larry Petersen, 30, last week filed as a candidate for state representative from the 16th District.

There are currently seven representatives from this district, all of whom are from Fairbanks except one who is from Fort Yukon. All of the terms expire this year.

Petersen works with the White Alice system in Fort Yukon as an electronic technician.

A Democrat, he will be campaigning on issues concerning education, housing, and health as they relate to both Fairbanks and the villages. He said that he does not plan to focus on the controversial land claims issue.

Born and raised in Fort Yukon, he worked for two years in Fairbanks.

The soft-spoken bachelor is currently serving as president of

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Larry Peterson . .

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the Fort Yukon Native Association, vice-president of the Tanana Chiefs, member of the Fort Yukon city council, and president of the DNH Corporation, a native owned development corporation.

He feels that he is pretty well known in the Fort Yukon area and that Fairbanks will be his biggest problem.

However, Petersen added that he still plans to visit the villages in his district and to talk with the people there about their ideas and needs.

"Most of the small villages," he said, "have been ignored because the politicians want to concentrate on the big votes."

If a candidate wins in Fairbanks, he added, he wins in the district.

The native vote alone, Petersen said, would not be enough to put him in office but it sure would help.

"Alaska is a big state with vast opportunities," he said, "I would like to see the state progress and improve and would like to help plan some of the improvements."