

# North Slope planning chief announces resignation

By DABNEY CANNELOS  
Tundra Times Reporter

North Slope Borough Planning Director Herbert Bartel signed his position at the Tundra Times Reporter 8 to be near his family in the Midwest. and will be leaving May

---

In a telephone interview with the Tundra Times, Bartel cited family health problems as his reason for resignation. Bartel's wife, Patricia, has been in England since January. Her father recently died of cancer there. Bartel's father in Marion, Kansas has cancer troubles as well.

Borough Mayor Jacob Adams received Bartel's letter of resignation last week.

"My letter to Mayor Adams best describes my feelings about the Borough," Bartel stated. "I told Mayor Adams that I felt confident resigning because the people here have their own special ability to balance national interests and local needs. When the chips are down, the people here will act in the national interest and fit their needs into the whole plan."

Bartel moved to Barrow from Colorado in July 1975 to become the Borough's first planning director certified by the American Institute of Planners.

At that time, the Late Mayor Eben Hopson's Borough Planning Commission was working on the first rudimentary zoning and subdivision ordinances needed for the haul road which crossed the Yukon River and wound its way toward Prudhoe Bay.

In the past six years, Bartel has worked closely with the Borough Planning Commission and the People of the Borough to show the state and federal agencies that the Borough's own distinct land use patterns must be recognized when resources are developed on the North Slope.

"We helped the state develop the regulations for the haul road, worked with the elders to document traditional land usage and prepared a coastal zone management plan for the Beaufort Sea Area," Bartel reported.

The borough planning department is now seeking funding for a Borough-wide coastal zone management study, preparing Elders' conference texts for publication, completing the ordinances for a new residential subdivision in Barrow and working on a comprehensive growth projection for the borough.

During his tenure as Planning director, Bartel constantly sought to help borough residents understand the importance of planning for the local control of resources.

Bartel helped his co-director, Emily Wilson gain her Planner's experience. Bartel and Wilson now supervise a 12 person staff which includes seven Native employees.