

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SESSION

State Capitol, Rm 516  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3873 Phone  
(907) 465-3922 Fax  
(877) 463-3873 Toll Free  
Senator\_Bert\_Stedman@legis.state.ak.us



## INTERIM

50 Front Street  
Suite 203  
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6442  
Phone (907) 225-8088  
Fax (907) 225-0713

## SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

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**Contact:** Darwin Peterson 465-3873

### **Senator Stedman Hires 2012 Session Staff**

#### *New Aides Join Stedman Staff*

**(Juneau)** – Senator Bert Stedman (R-Sitka) announced his staff for the 2012 legislative session. New hires Penny Gage and Trevor Fulton join existing staff members Darwin Peterson, Weston Eiler, and Julie Isom.

Penny Gage grew up in Southeast Alaska in the communities of Pelican and Sitka. Her professional experience includes working for the Rasmuson Foundation in Anchorage, interning with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., and serving as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua.

Trevor Fulton most recently worked for the Department of Natural Resources. He also brings several years of prior experience as a legislative aide focusing on natural resources and energy policy issues.

“I’m pleased to welcome these two dynamic professionals and lifelong Alaskans to my office,” remarked Senator Stedman. “Their respective experiences and accomplishments will make a valuable addition to my staff, to the district, and to the state.”

Senator Stedman continues to serve as Co-Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee this legislative session. He will also serve as Vice-Chair of the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee and as a member of the Resources Committee, Rules Committee, and Legislative Council.

Senate District A includes the Southeast communities of Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell, Petersburg, Pelican, Elfin Cove, Port Alexander, Saxman, Meyers Chuck, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove and Hollis.

*See attached Staff Photo and Biographies for additional information.*

*Left to Right: Weston Eiler, Julie Isom, Senator Bert Stedman, Trevor Fulton, Penny Gage, and Darwin Peterson*

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#### DISTRICT A

*Ketchikan • Sitka • Petersburg • Wrangell*

*Pelican • Elfin Cove • Port Alexander • Saxman • Meyers Chuck • Thorne Bay • Coffman Cove • Hollis*

## **STAFF BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Darwin Peterson – Finance Aide**

Darwin Peterson brings extensive experience to the office, having spent nine years as staff on the Senate Finance Committee. Prior to joining Senator Stedman's office in 2008, Darwin served as a deputy legislative director for Governor Frank Murkowski and worked for Senator Ted Stevens in Washington D.C. A graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage, Darwin currently serves as Senator Stedman's Chief of Staff and handles legislation for the Senate Finance Committee.

### **Weston Eiler – Finance Aide**

Weston Eiler was born and raised in Southeast Alaska and joined Senator Stedman's staff in 2008. After graduating from Willamette University, Weston directed small-ship cruises in Alaska for Cruise West. Weston manages the capital appropriations budget for the Senate Finance Committee and has a wealth of knowledge on legislative issues affecting Southeast Alaska.

### **Julie Isom – Legislative Aide**

Originally from Prince of Wales Island, Julie has an impressive history of service to her community. She's the former Mayor of the City of Thorne Bay and has served on the Thorne Bay City Council for eight years. Julie has also been the Vice President of the Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce and a board member on the Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council and the Key Coalition. Before coming to work for Senator Stedman in 2007, Julie worked for the Southeast Island School District. Julie is responsible for managing Senator Stedman's Juneau and Ketchikan office among many other duties.

### **Trevor Fulton – Legislative Aide**

In addition to five years of experience working as a legislative aide, Trevor Fulton has over ten years of experience in wildland firefighting and timber resources and most recently served as legislative liaison for the Department of Natural Resources. He earned a degree in English Rhetoric from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Trevor is Senator Stedman's Resources Committee Aide and will monitor all issues relating to timber, mining, fisheries, and oil and natural gas.

### **Penny Gage – Legislative Aide**

Penny Gage grew up in the Southeast communities of Pelican and Sitka. Having worked most recently for the Rasmuson Foundation in Anchorage, Penny also interned with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. and served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua. Penny earned degrees in both Spanish and communication from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Penny's responsibilities include constituent relations, community liaison, public communications, casework, and research.