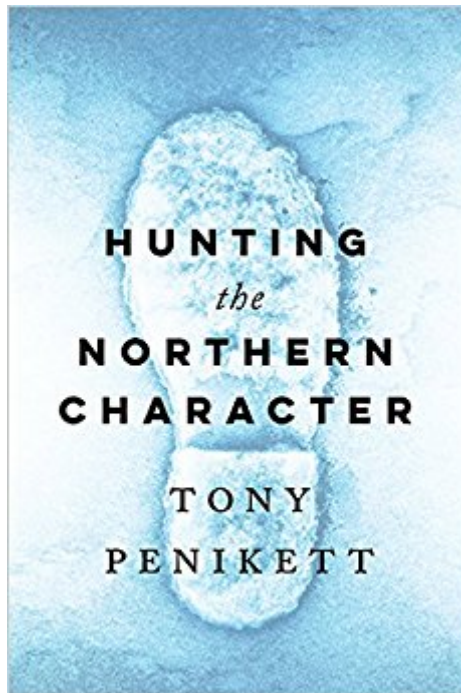




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Hunting The Northern Character



Synopsis

We often hear world leaders, environmentalists, and the media invoke "the northern character" and "Arctic identity," but what do these terms mean, exactly? Stereotypes abound, but these southern perspectives fail to capture northern realities. During decades of service as a legislator, mediator, and negotiator, Tony Penikett witnessed a new northern consciousness grow out of the challenges of the Cold War, climate change, land rights struggles, and the boom and bust of resource megaprojects. His lively account of clashes and accommodations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders not only tracks his own footsteps in his hunt for a northern identity but tells the story of an Arctic that the world does not yet know.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tony Penikett's book is an elegant and deeply moving account of the social disruptions, changes in governance structures, and complications, contradictions, and paradoxes of evolving relations between Indigenous and settler communities around the circumpolar North. Along the way, he weaves in powerful memoir and a multitude of voices that bring the Arctic into ever sharper focus, revealing the long-lasting impact of geopolitical turns, colonial infrastructures, and ecological transformations. (Candis Callison, author of *How Climate Change Comes to Matter*) Canadian politicians, like many of their circumpolar counterparts, brag about their country's "Arctic identity" or "northern character," but what do they mean, exactly? Stereotypes abound, from Dudley Do-Right to Northern Exposure, but these southern perspectives fail to capture northern

realities. In this passionate, deeply personal account of modern developments in the Canadian North, Tony Penikett corrects confused and outdated notions of a region he became fascinated with as a child and for many years called home. During decades of service as a legislator, mediator, and negotiator, Penikett bore witness to the advent of a new northern consciousness. Out of sight of New Yorkers, and far from the minds of Copenhagen's citizens, Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders came together to forge new Arctic realities as they dealt with the challenges of the Cold War, climate change, land rights struggles, and the boom and bust of resource megaprojects. This lively account of their struggles and accommodations not only retraces the footsteps of Penikett's personal hunt for a northern identity but also tells the story of an Arctic that the world does not yet know.

"Hunting the Northern Character is light-hearted, interesting, and informed by Penikett's deep experience and understanding of the North." •Ken Coates, author of *Best Left as Indians* and coauthor of *From Treaty Peoples to Treaty Nation*

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