



Professor Shelagh Grant

Trent University
Ontario, Canada

History of Leadership in the Arctic

*When Leadership Mattered:
Opportunities Seized and Missed*

Thursday 0830-0930

Shelagh Grant, historian, researcher, author, editor and now adjunct professor, taught history and Canadian Studies on a part time basis at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. After undergraduate studies at the University of Western Ontario and time out to raise a young family, she returned to university in 1977 and earned a Masters Degree in history. With further archival research in London and Washington, she expanded the master's thesis into her first book: *Sovereignty or Security? Government Policy in the Canadian North, 1939-1950* (UBC Press 1988).

Shelagh's love of the outdoors began as a young child, whose father insisted she learn to ski and paddle a canoe almost as soon as she could walk. In later years, this evolved into a passion for wilderness camping, whitewater canoeing and both downhill and cross-country skiing. Academic research drew her further and further north—to the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Baffin Island. A study group with the former Canadian Institute for International Affairs took her to even more remote Arctic locations: the Svalbard Islands, Ellesmere Island, and Station Nord, Meistervig and the USAF Thule Air Base in Greenland.

Her second book, the award-winning *Arctic Justice: On Trial for Murder – Pond Inlet, 1923* (MQUP 2002), required seven trips to Baffin Island for oral history interviews and follow-up discussions. Later she returned to Pond Inlet to supervise an Inuktitut translation of her unpublished manuscript on the history of Mittimatalik, published in 2008 by the Nunavut Department of Education for use in schools and elders' centres.

Teaching part-time allowed her to focus on researching and writing, which resulted in numerous academic papers published in scholarly journals. She also presented papers at a number of international conferences: in Australia, Central Siberia, England, Scotland and Iceland. Winner of the INAC Northern Science Award in 1997, Shelagh sat on various Inuit policy advisory committees, editorial boards, and northern scholarship committees.



LEADERSHIP FOR THE ARCTIC

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New London, CT



Travel and teaching inter-disciplinary courses reinforced the importance of a comparative approach in understanding current issues, as did a trip 'down under' as co-editor of *Federalism in Canada and Australia*. Inevitably thirty years of research on Arctic sovereignty would be compiled into a unique comparative history of Alaska, Arctic Canada and Greenland: *Polar Imperative: A History of Arctic Sovereignty in North America* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2010), winner of three major awards: the J.W. Dafoe Prize for Canadian history and Canadian Authors Association history prize, as well as being the first Canadian woman and only second Canadian to receive the prestigious Lionel Gelber award for the best English language book on global affairs.

Now retired from regular teaching, Shelagh is still a member of the adjunct faculty for the Canadian Studies Department and a research associate of the Frost Centre for Graduate Studies at Trent University. Long time partner of Jon K. Grant, they have three children and six grandchildren.

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