

Whit Fraser's entire working life has been associated with Canada's Arctic: as a CBC broadcaster, chairman of the Canadian Polar Commission, executive director with the National Inuit organization, and more recently as author of *True North Rising*.

His combined experience, beginning in 1967, allowed him to travel to every community across Canada's three Northern Territories, as well as throughout Northern Quebec, Labrador, Alaska and Greenland. He lived in Iqaluit and Yellowknife from 1967 to 78 when he joined CBC National News and in Kuujuaq Northern Quebec from 2008—2015.

For eight of his 25 years with CBC, Whit Fraser worked on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and during that time provided unprecedented coverage of Arctic and Indigenous issues for a national audience. He was also prime time anchor for CBC Newsworld when it went on the air in 1989. During his broadcasting career, he witnessed the remarkable developments that shaped northern Canada and Indigenous people today. These include:

- Historic First Minister's Constitutional amendments affirming Indigenous rights in the Constitution of Canada.
- Negotiation and settlement of four comprehensive Inuit Land Claim Agreements
- Creation of the new territory of Nunavut

From 1974—77 he covered the Berger McKenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry and led a team of Indigenous language reporters, producing daily reports in English as well as all six Aboriginal Languages. In his view, this Commission of Inquiry became a turning point for the political, economic, social and environmental developments that has shaped today's Arctic.

As founding chairman of the Canadian Polar Commission 1991—97 he worked with a distinguished Board of Directors and together they recommended to the Canadian Government a series of measures to strengthen science policy in the polar regions both internationally and nationally, including greater emphasis on human health and social issues confronting Indigenous peoples.

As executive director with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami 2001—06, he coordinated the Inuit-specific agenda presented to the Kelowna First Ministers meeting on Aboriginal issues in 2005.

He has written a memoir, *True North Rising*: an eyewitness perspective to events and a remarkable cadre of young indigenous leaders who confronted and challenged colonialism in Canada's Arctic and brought about a far greater measure of equality and reconciliation.

Whit is a regular participant as an educator and storyteller for the Students on Ice Arctic education program, and Adventure Canada, the premier Arctic Cruise line that focuses on cultural connections and our scientific understanding of the world's farthest-flung regions. He currently lives in Ottawa Ontario.