

Editorial: *On Editorials!*

Given today's exciting and rapidly evolving developments in the Canadian North, the practice of masthead editorials was initiated to provide some degree of topicality to the multidisciplinary journal *Arctic*. This practice has resulted, much to our delight, in a substantial increase in letters to the editor — some commending and others strongly disagreeing with the trenchant and thought-provoking ideas put forth in the editorials.

An editorial is an opinion piece or proposal written by an individual or group of individuals who wish to express a particular viewpoint on an issue of current relevance. The masthead editorial in *Arctic* is specifically designed to promote feedback from the readership and encourage our members to actively participate in the scholarly debate of important events and issues affecting the North now and in the future. A more active participation by the members through guest editorials and letters to the editor can only serve to enhance the value of and interest in the journal. These opinion pieces, either from the editor of *Arctic* or an invited guest editor, do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Arctic Institute of North America but are solely the responsibility of the person or persons whose names stand with the editorial. In future issues of *Arctic* we hope to offer stimulating, authoritative commentaries from individuals representing a broad spectrum of northern interests.

As a multidisciplinary journal, *Arctic* is in a unique position to break down disciplinary barriers and enable those of us in the over-specialized scientific community to understand the interactive processes affecting our world. The significance of the polar regions of the world as highly sensitive monitors of the overall state of the global environment is becoming increasingly clear. For this reason, we can no longer afford to remain uninformed of current thought and directions in disciplines other than our own. An understanding of the broader picture is becoming crucially important as we recognize the need for comprehensive cross-disciplinary research and idea exchange among people from all aspects of scholarly inquiry.

In *Arctic* we are energetically striving for a balanced blending of knowledge from the social, physical and life sciences. By encouraging active dialogue among the readership through the editorials and letters to the editor we hope to achieve this end. This is your journal — your input, ideas and encouragement are always unequivocally welcome!

— *Karen McCullough*