

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783762503321
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Titolo	Northern experience and the myths of Canadian culture [[electronic resource] /] / Renee Hulan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal ; ; Ithaca, : McGill-Queen's University Press, c2002
ISBN	1-282-85945-5 9786612859458 0-7735-6944-8
Descrizione fisica	245 p. ; ; 24 cm
Collana	McGill-Queen's native and northern series ; ; 29
Disciplina	C810.9/32719
Soggetti	Canadian literature - History and criticism National characteristics, Canadian, in literature Inuit in literature Myth in literature Canada, Northern In literature Arctic regions In literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [201]-234) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: Acknowledgments ix -- Introduction: A Northern Nation? 3 -- 1. Speaking Man to Man: Ethnography and the Representation of the North 29 -- 2. "Everybody Likes the Inuit": Inuit Revision and Representations of the North 60 -- 3. "To Fight, Defeat, and Dominate": From Adventure to Mastery 98 -- 4. Lovers and Strangers: Reimagining the Mythic North 138 -- Epilogue: Unsettling the Northern Nation 179.
Sommario/riassunto	By investigating mutually dependent categories of identity in literature that depicts northern peoples and places, Hulan provides a descriptive account of representative genres in which the north figures as a central theme - including autobiography, adventure narrative, ethnography, fiction, poetry, and travel writing. She considers each of these diverse genres in terms of the way it explains the cultural identity of a nation formed from the settlement of immigrant peoples on the lands of dispossessed, indigenous peoples. Reading against the background of contemporary ethnographic, literary, and cultural theory, Hulan

maintains that the collective Canadian identity idealized in many works representing the north does not occur naturally but is artificially constructed in terms of characteristics inflected by historically contingent ideas of gender and race, such as self-sufficiency, independence, and endurance, and that these characteristics are evoked to justify the nationhood of the Canadian state.
