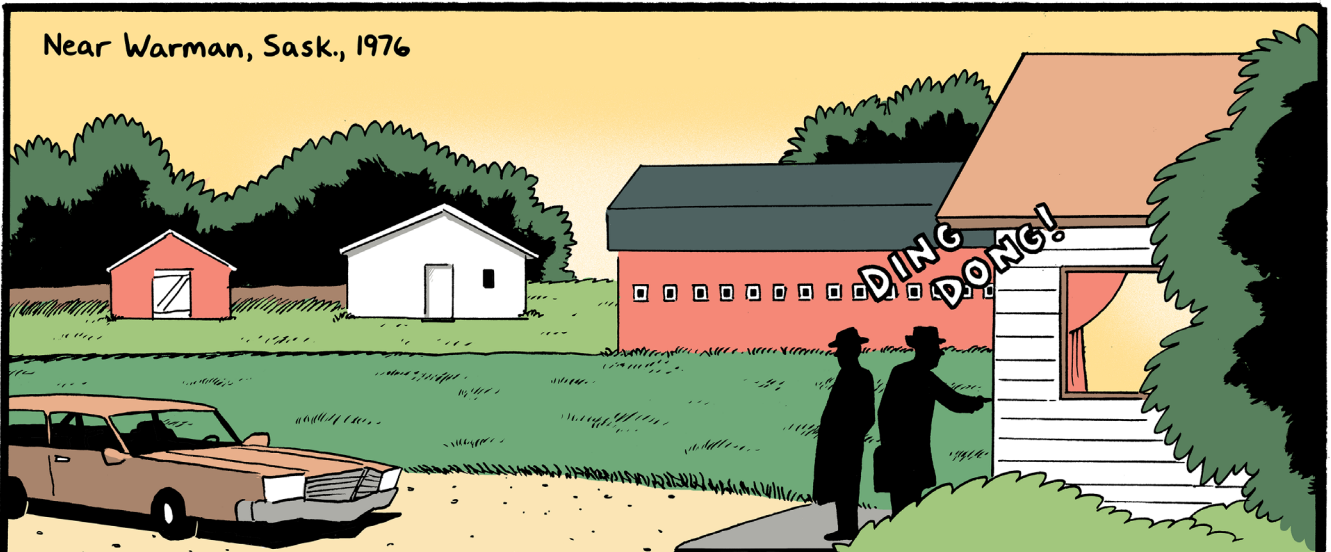


Near Warman, Sask., 1976

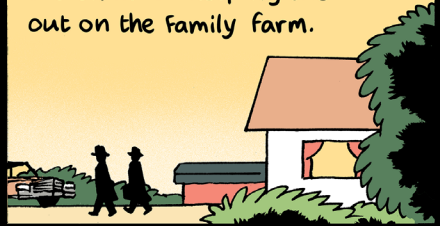


UNQUIET IN THE LAND

by Jonathan Dyck
& Josiah Neufeld

A generation ago, Saskatchewan Mennonites rallied to halt the construction of a uranium refinery in their community. Their struggle holds lessons for climate activists today.

As her parents plan for retirement, Nettie Wiebe, a young philosophy student, is spending the summer helping them out on the family farm.



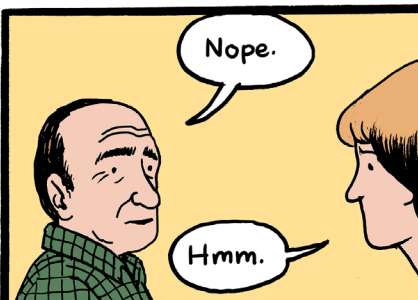
This SEDCO* deal is going to be our best option. We'd be set for retirement.



You said those men were from the government, but did they tell you why they want the land?



Nope.



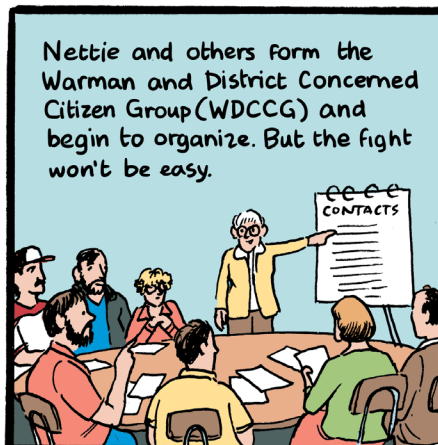
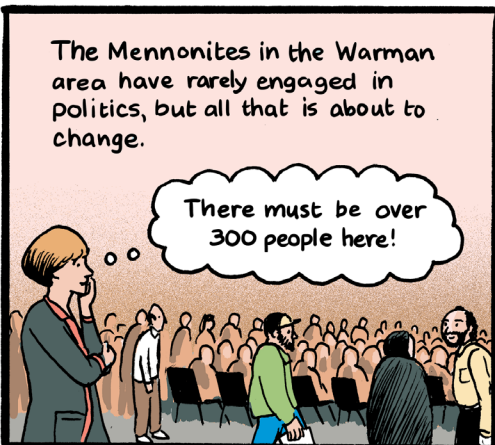
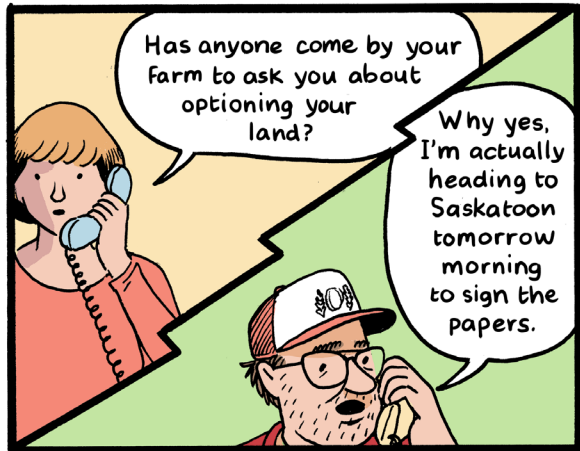
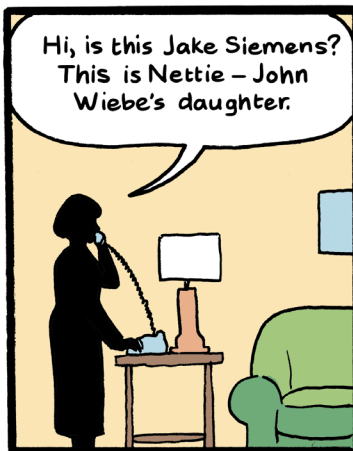
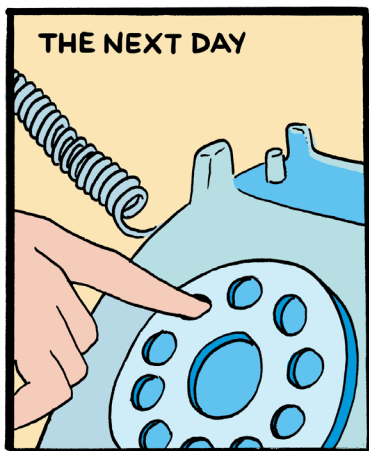
Hmm.

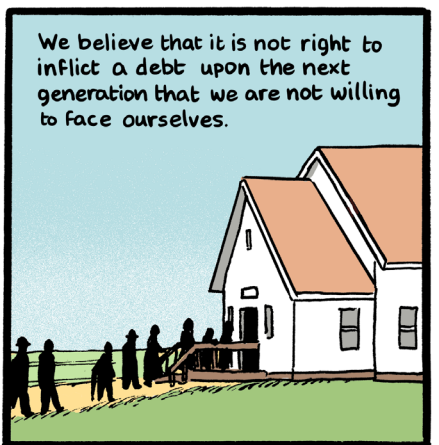
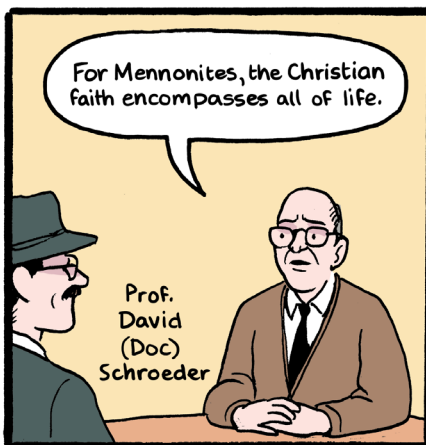
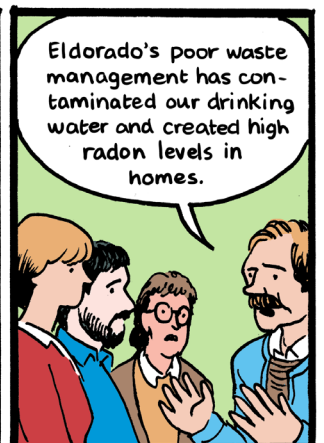
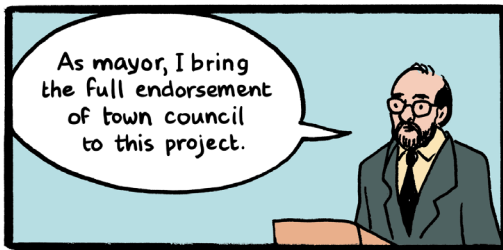
A week later, Nettie's friend asks to meet her for coffee.



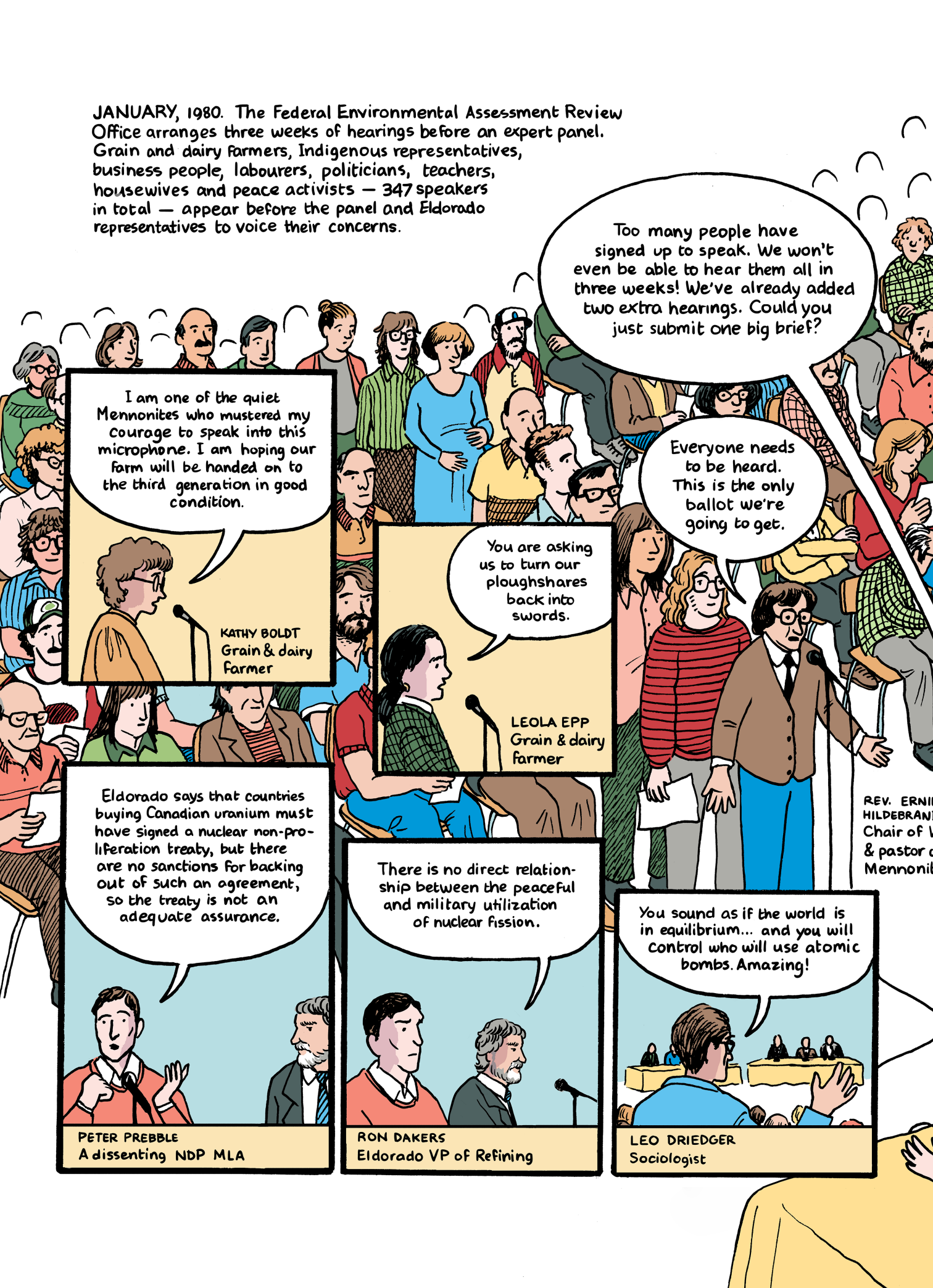
The government's looking into the potential for a uranium refinery in your area. I thought you should know.

*SEDCO: A provincial crown corporation looking for land on behalf of Eldorado Nuclear.





JANUARY, 1980. The Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office arranges three weeks of hearings before an expert panel. Grain and dairy farmers, Indigenous representatives, business people, labourers, politicians, teachers, housewives and peace activists — 347 speakers in total — appear before the panel and Eldorado representatives to voice their concerns.



I am one of the quiet Mennonites who mustered my courage to speak into this microphone. I am hoping our farm will be handed on to the third generation in good condition.

KATHY BOLDT
Grain & dairy
farmer

Too many people have signed up to speak. We won't even be able to hear them all in three weeks! We've already added two extra hearings. Could you just submit one big brief?

Everyone needs to be heard. This is the only ballot we're going to get.

You are asking us to turn our ploughshares back into swords.

LEOLA EPP
Grain & dairy
farmer

Eldorado says that countries buying Canadian uranium must have signed a nuclear non-proliferation treaty, but there are no sanctions for backing out of such an agreement, so the treaty is not an adequate assurance.

PETER PREBBLE
A dissenting NDP MLA

There is no direct relationship between the peaceful and military utilization of nuclear fission.

RON DAKERS
Eldorado VP of Refining

You sound as if the world is in equilibrium... and you will control who will use atomic bombs. Amazing!

LEO DRIEDGER
Sociologist

REV. ERNIE
HILDEBRAND
Chair of V
& pastor of
Mennonite

It is against our conscience to consent to a plant that will refine chemicals to produce atomic weapons that could later be used to destroy the human race.



REV. JOHN REDDEKOPP
Bergthaler Mennonite congregation

But Rev. Reddekopp, Eldorado has stated that they are not going to be making nuclear weapons at their plant.



REG LANG
Panellist

We cannot agree with you. The company has been unable to give us that guarantee.



How am I going to sell a radio-active haybale?



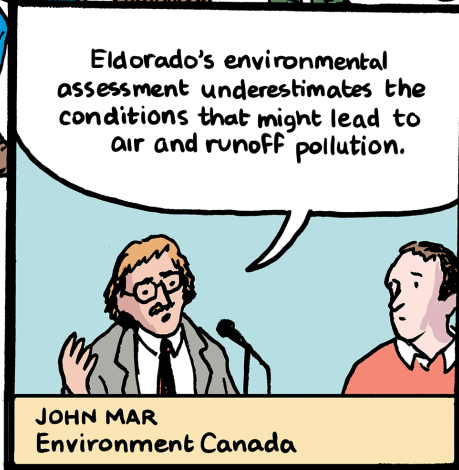
JOE FROESE
Farmer

I've been trying to understand the white man for 65 years now. They don't seem to have love for children.



ERNEST TOOTOSIS
Indigenous Elder

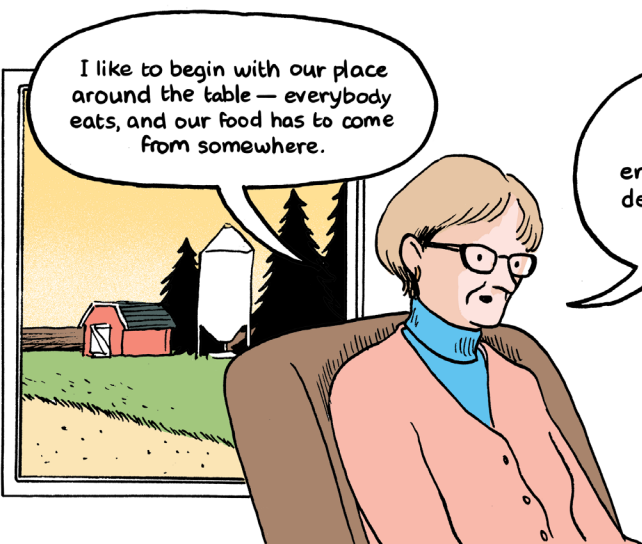
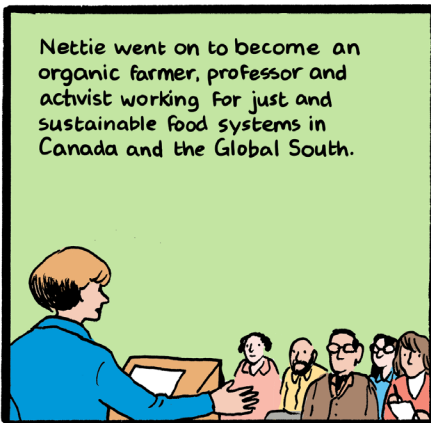
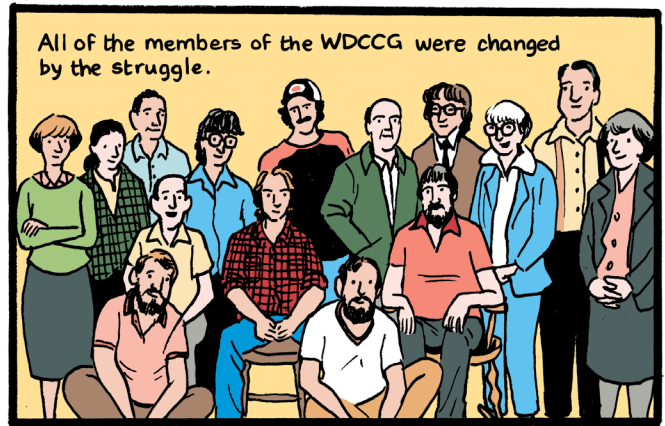
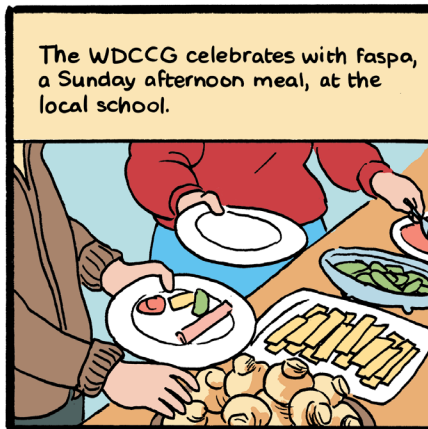
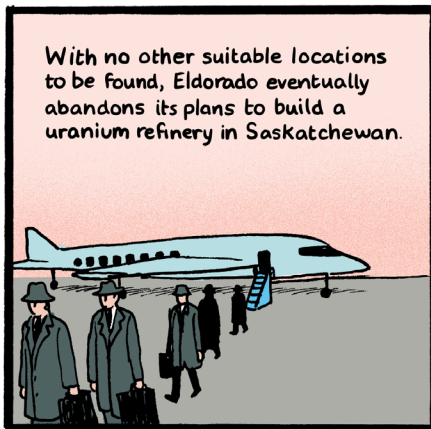
Eldorado's environmental assessment underestimates the conditions that might lead to air and runoff pollution.



JOHN MAR
Environment Canada

NDCCG
of Osler
Church





Jonathan Dyck's debut graphic novel, *Shelterbelts*, was published by Conundrum Press.

Josiah Neufeld is the author of *The Temple at the End of the Universe*, out with House of Anansi in June.