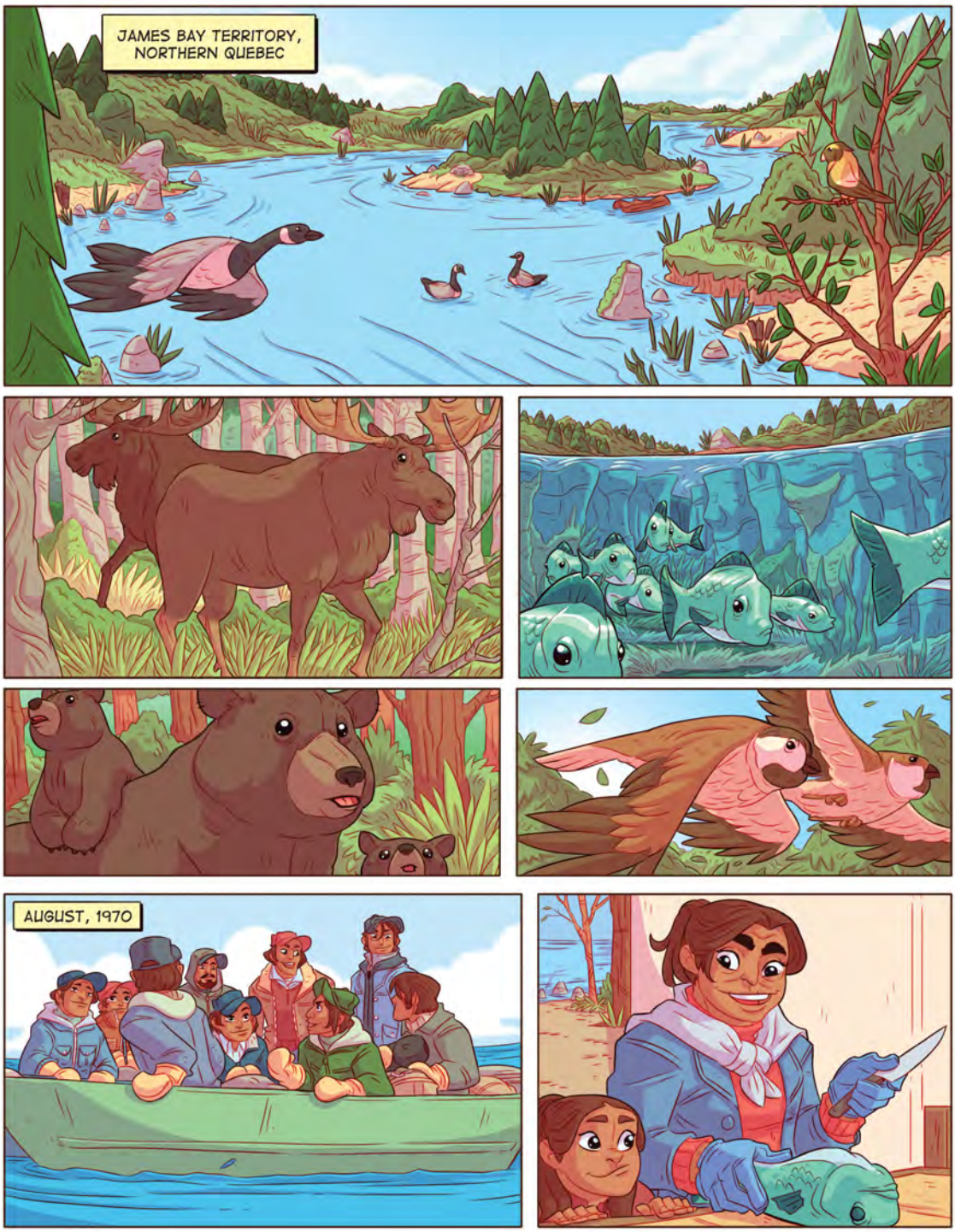
POWER OF THE PEOPLE

ALEX DIOCHON




APRIL 30, 1971, QUEBEC COLISEUM, QUEBEC CITY
QUEBEC PREMIER ROBERT BOURASSA
BASED ON SEVERAL STUDIES, HYDRO-QUEBEC RECOMMENDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC THAT THE PROJECT TO DEVELOP JAMES BAY'S HYDROELECTRIC RESOURCES BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT DELAY.
CFOX
CKPI
THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAMES BAY IS THE KEY TO QUEBEC'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS. IT'S ALSO THE KEY TO SOCIAL PROGRESS AND POLITICAL STABILITY.
IN A WORD, IT'S THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF QUEBEC.
CHIEF BILLY DIAMOND


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO!
HYDRO-QUEBEC IS GOING TO FLOOD OUR LANDS AND NOBODY EVEN COMES UP TO ASK US WHAT WE THINK?
THEY'RE SPENDING SIX BILLION DOLLARS TO BUILD DAMS.
MAYBE THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO SPEND ON TALKING TO THE CREE OR INUIT.
WELL, THEY'D BETTER START TALKING, AND FAST.
THEY CAN'T JUST SIT IN QUEBEC CITY AND MAKE PLANS WITHOUT HEARING FROM US.
SOMEONE HAS TO SPEAK FOR THE LAND— FOR THE ANIMALS AND FISH.


JUSTICE ALBERT MALOUF
NOVEMBER 15, 1973, QUEBEC CITY. THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE BEEN PRESENTING THEIR CASES FOR SIX MONTHS.
EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ARGUED THAT THE CREE AND INUIT OF THE REGION DO NOT HAVE RIGHTS OVER THIS LAND, IT IS CLEAR THEY DEPEND PARTLY OR COMPLETELY ON HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING IN THIS AREA. THEIR RIGHT TO PURSUE THEIR WAY OF LIFE FAR OUTWEIGHS ANY CONCERN ABOUT MONETARY LOSS FOR HYDRO-QUEBEC. THEREFORE, THE PROJECT MUST BE STOPPED FOR NOW.
NO!
LES DROITS
JUSTICE MALOUF'S DECISION WAS REVERSED A WEEK LATER BY ANOTHER COURT. BUT IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAD THE RIGHT TO HAVE A SAY IN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAND EAST OF JAMES BAY.


THE JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON NOVEMBER 11, 1975. THE CREE AND INUIT AGREED TO SHARE SOME OF THEIR LAND AND RESOURCES. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WOULD WORK WITH THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO LOOK AFTER THE REGION'S WILDLIFE.
IT WAS THE FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT SINCE THE LAST OF THE NUMBERED TREATIES IN 1921, AND THE FIRST MODERN TREATY IN CANADA.
THERE HAVE BEEN MORE IDEAS FOR HYDRO MEGA-PROJECTS AND MORE COURT BATTLES.


BUT THE JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN RECOGNIZING THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS OVER THEIR LAND.
THE TREATY PROCESS CONTINUES ALL OVER CANADA.SOME AGREEMENTS BUILD ON OLD TREATIES. SOME INVOLVE NEW LAND CLAIMS. THE BIGGEST LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT IN CANADIAN HISTORY CREATED THE TERRITORY OF NUNAVUT IN 1993.