



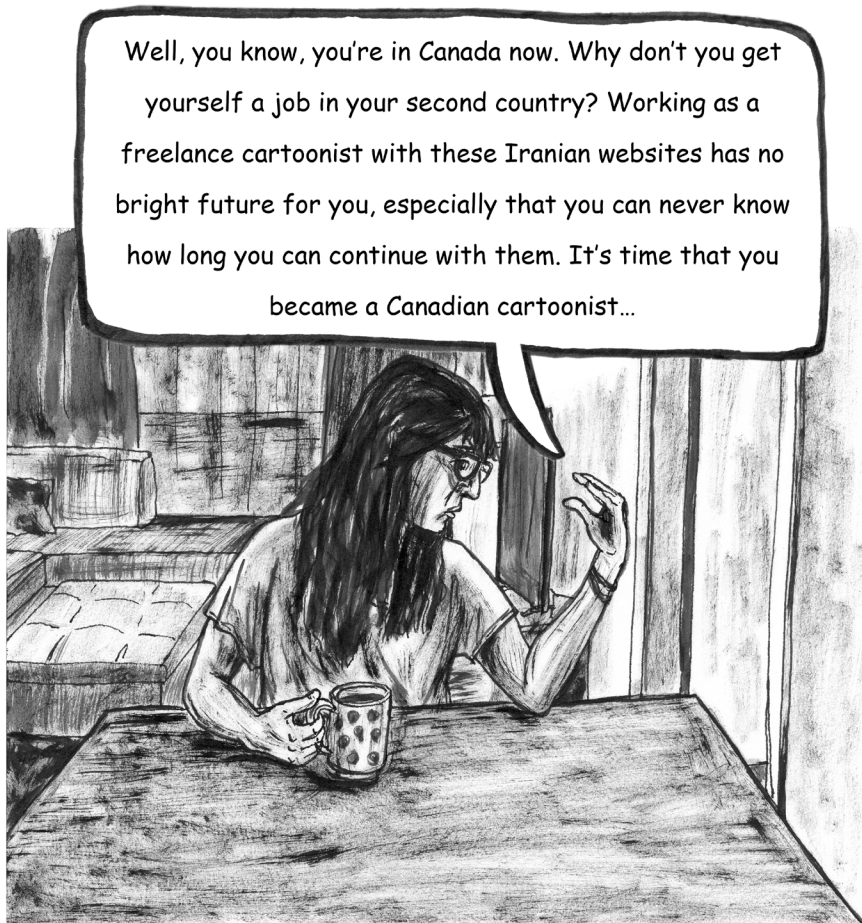


**July 9, 2018, Montreal**

After 10 days of struggling with pieces of IKEA furniture, finally our new apartment looks like our home. In the past two years, after we had moved from Tehran to Montreal in the summer of 2016, I always had this feeling that I was living in some hostel; maybe it was because our last place was a furnished studio, and that we didn't want to spend a lot of money to get a big place with some nice furniture until we had some stable jobs with a decent pay. Luckily, we both found a job in the first 6 months we were in Montreal; Fareed as an engineer and I as an editorial cartoonist. However the salaries were not much and we had to save money for a year or two before we could move to a better place. My job involved working for two Iranian online magazines. I knew I couldn't count on those magazines as a permanent job, because they were grant-based and I knew that sooner or later their budget would be over. But as a newcomer to Canada, I had tons of things to worry about, so I just closed my eyes to this concern and decided to cross that bridge when I come to it. I must admit that it was a terrible decision, as that day, which I didn't want to think about, has finally come. It's been one month now since the magazines' grant ran out and I'm out of job now. Moving gave me the chance to not have time to think about my fears or worries. But now... This damned day's begun and there's no physical work left to do. I've got to find a solution.




When people find out that I have no job, they often make comments like:



Well, you know, you're in Canada now. Why don't you get yourself a job in your second country? Working as a freelance cartoonist with these Iranian websites has no bright future for you, especially that you can never know how long you can continue with them. It's time that you became a Canadian cartoonist...

Usually I react to their suggestions by just nodding my head. I just don't have the nerve to explain a simple fact: You cannot become a cartoonist in a new country overnight and to become a cartoonist, one must know their society really well. Besides, I still start my day by reading the news in Iran even though I have been in Canada for almost two years. Strangely enough, I'm not curious about Canadian news yet.

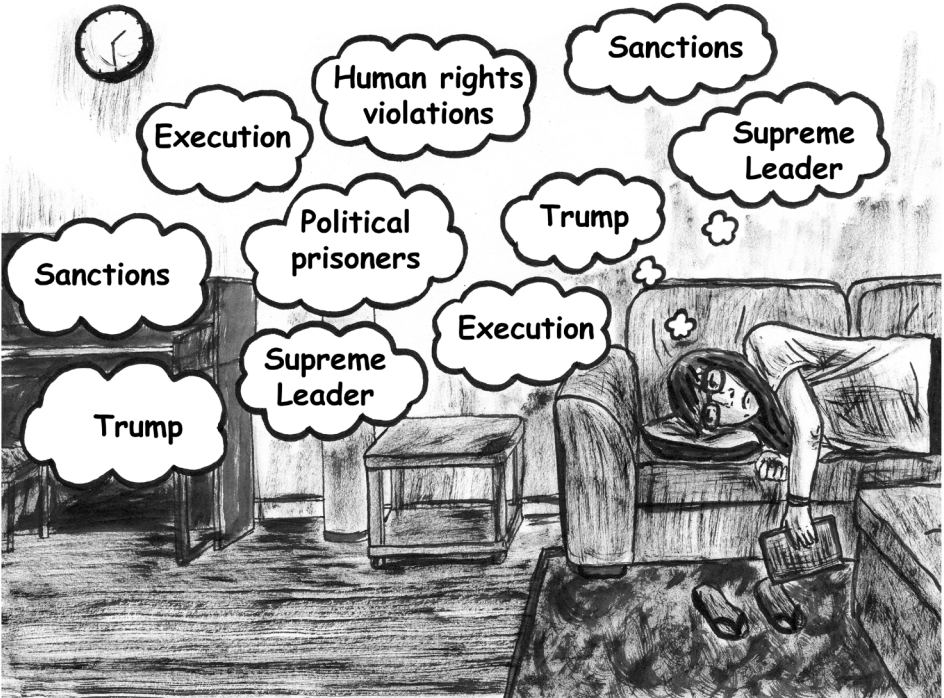




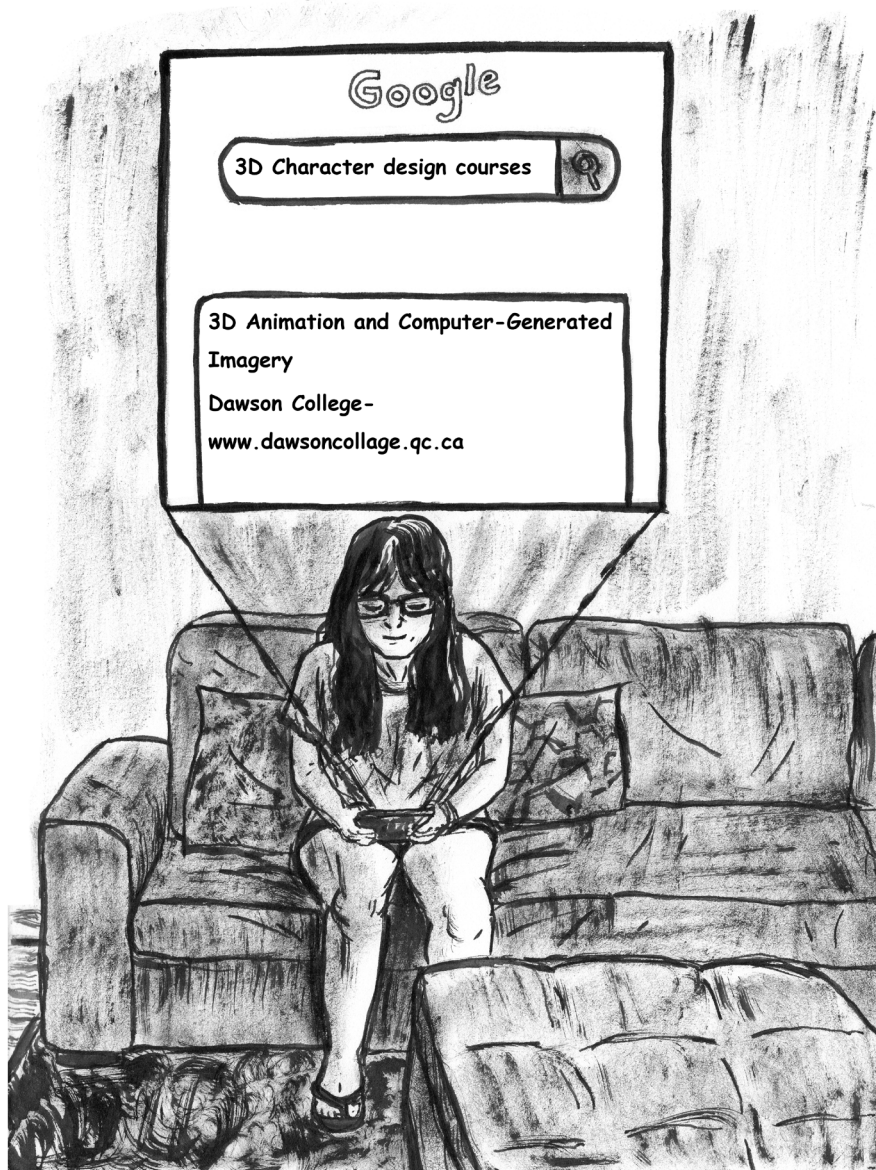
I'm not in a situation where I could only think about my interest. I need money to make ends meet. I must not rely on Fareed all the time. I have immigrated to Canada to be independent and free. The best solution is to get myself a new job, or learn a new craft from which I can earn some money in such situations.











Dawson College offers the program. The courses are in English and I won't have to be worried about the language. There's only one problem, which is I have to wait until September 2019 to apply and to begin my studies



