

## ***Events in the Northwest 1870-1884***

- ❖ Metis are pushed westward
  - Sold land scripts to land speculators
  - Encroaching European settlers and immigrants
- ❖ Northwest Territories are governed by Ottawa (purchased Rupert's Land in 1869)
  - Any laws have to be approved by Ottawa (a territory has less independence/autonomy)
- ❖ **North West Territories Act 1875:** establishes a government in the region = Lieutenant Governor with an appointed 5 member council; gradual implementation of an elected, representative, and responsible government
- ❖ **Numbered Treaties 1871-1877**
  - Government of Canada gains title to lands in the Northwest
  - Only First Nations that sign treaties are given status and benefits of treaties
  - First Nations promised land, health care and education, farming seeds, equipment, and training
  - Macdonald refuses to help "difficult" First Nations communities
- ❖ **Indian Act 1876**
  - First Nations become wards of the state; must register with the government to receive "status"; placed on reserves and not allowed to leave reserves without permission of the Indian Agent; children must attend residential school; traditional ceremonies and forms of governance are abolished
- ❖ Building of the **CPR**
  - Signed treaties with First Nations to acquire land for the railway
  - Terms of treaties were not fulfilled as money was diverted to pay for the CPR = starvation of the First Nations
- ❖ 1881 – Metis and European settlers of the Northwest send petitions to Ottawa asking for land grants
  - This land is worth \$71 million –this money would fund the building of the CPR
  - Macdonald sends commissioners to the NW to settle the land issue; Metis are disappointed more issues aren't addressed
- ❖ Gabriel Dumont convinces Louis Riel to return to the Northwest in 1884 to fight for the rights of the Metis
  - **Bill of Rights 1884:** demand responsible government, control over resources, provincial status as Saskatchewan, representation in the federal government, rights for Metis and settlers
- ❖ Northwest government officials, NWMP, and church missionaries write letters to Ottawa stating the government needs to respond to the Metis and European settlers otherwise there will be trouble
- ❖ Amendments are made to the Indian Act in 1884 banning the sale of ammunition to First Nations
- ❖ Metis are told by HBC Chief Factor Lawrence Clarke that their call for responsible government would be denied and answered with bullets and 500 NWMP on their way to arrest Louis Riel
  - 1<sup>st</sup> part of this statement was true – the Canadian government had no intention of granting responsible government to the region (this could allow Metis to gain control of the gov't)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> part was false – there were no NWMP on their way to the region to arrest Riel = this only escalates tension in the region which is what Clarke wanted!

## ***Causes of the Northwest Uprising***

### ***Cause #1: Land Grants in the Northwest***

- The Canadian government was slow in handing out land grants to the Metis
- Land surveying conflicted with current land settlement patterns: sometimes the surveyors honoured the seigneurial system of land division, while other times they imposed the grid system of land division on land that was already settled
- Land was devoted to the building of the CPR
- Land was devoted to the settlement of European immigrants
  - However, not all settlers received their land grant papers in a timely manner

### ***Cause #2: Uncertainty for the Metis***

- Concerned their rights would not be heard or recognized by the Canadian government, just like in Red River
- Metis were not guaranteed land in the Northwest because they were not able to negotiate and sign treaties with the Canadian government
- Increasing settlement in the Northwest disrupted the bison hunt; Metis were forced to become farmers and wanted support from the government like the First Nations received
  - However, since they did not sign treaties with the government there was no way to get this support

### ***Cause #3: Actions by the Government of Canada***

- Government of Canada did not fulfill the promises of Numbered Treaties – instead it focused money and efforts on the building of the CPR
  - First Nations begin to suffer starvation
  - Metis have to feed and support First Nations, putting a strain on their own food resources
- Government is slow to respond to petitions, letters, and Bill of Rights
- Regional government under the North West Territories Act 1875 = Ottawa appoints Lieutenant Governor and council; gradual implementation of an elected, representative, and responsible government

# Timeline of Events of the Northwest Uprising 1885

Use *Canada Revisited* pp. 250-251

March 19

- Louis Riel sets up a \_\_\_\_\_ government, with \_\_\_\_\_ as military leader
- European settlers \_\_\_\_\_ join the Metis
- Most First Nations in the Northwest \_\_\_\_\_ join the Metis

March 26 – Battle at \_\_\_\_\_

- Dumont and Metis attack \_\_\_\_\_ and the NWMP on the way to rescue arms and ammunition stored in Duck Lake
- Metis destroy Fort \_\_\_\_\_

End of March – Raid on \_\_\_\_\_

- Cree Chief \_\_\_\_\_ travels to Battleford to talk with government agents about receiving more \_\_\_\_\_ for his people
- Government refused to negotiate; Cree raided the fort for supplies

April 2 – Battle at \_\_\_\_\_

- Cree Chief \_\_\_\_\_ and his men attack the fort killing 9 men, including a government agent

*When Prime Minister Macdonald receives word of these events, he sends \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers under the command of Major General \_\_\_\_\_ to the NW using the \_\_\_\_\_*

*Riel and Dumont disagree over how to proceed. \_\_\_\_\_ wants to attack the army using guerilla tactics, while \_\_\_\_\_ says visions from God have told him not to attack unless provoked*

April 24 – Battle at \_\_\_\_\_

- Dumont and his men attack Middleton using \_\_\_\_\_ tactics
- This slows down the advancement of the Canadian Militia, but they aren't defeated

May 2 – Battle at Cut Knife Hill

- \_\_\_\_\_ and his people are attacked by the Canadian Militia
- They are successful in defending themselves, but Poundmaker will not allow his men to \_\_\_\_\_

May 9 – Battle at \_\_\_\_\_

- Metis and First Nations are waiting for the militia in dug out rifle pits; they soon run out of ammunition and have to resort to firing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ wins; \_\_\_\_\_ escapes and later surrenders; \_\_\_\_\_ flees to the US

May 26 – \_\_\_\_\_ surrenders

May 28 – Battle at \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ and his men clash with the Canadian Militia; are able to escape

July 2 – \_\_\_\_\_ surrenders

*This uprising lasted 99 days, resulted in the deaths of 53 Canadian Militia and 35 Metis and First Nations, and cost the Canadian government \$5 million.*

## ***Outcomes and Consequences of the Northwest Uprising***

*Use Canada Revisited pp. 252-253*

**1. What happens to the Metis?**

**2. What happens to the First Nations?**