various community members.	ies in the area, seeking to find a co	·	
, On 16 December 1884 Riel and Willi	iam Henry Jackson sent a petition (outlining the community's	
grievances. While it was	•		
matter.			
our months later, a group of Metis	occupied a church in	, cut the telegraph lines	
etween Regina and Prince Albert o			
government with Pierre Parenteau a	as president and Dumont as its mil	itary leader. Riel was tasked with	
vriting the Metis Bill of Rights.			
Response to the events in Batoche f	rom thecon	nmunity were varied.	
speaking m			
rms against the government.			
communiti	ies were sympathetic but were suf	fering greatly themselves due to a	
mallpox epidemic, government reg	ulations (treaties) and the decline	of the bison herds. Many First	
ations leaders hoped that the Met	is confrontation with the governm	ent would help to draw attention to	
heir own situation, such as broken t	treaty promises. As such they too	declined to take up arms in support	
f the Metis.			
ne stand by the Metis became	, soon after th	neir declaration of a provisional	
overnment.			
On 25 March 1885 a group of Metis	took over several stores in	looking for food	
nd other provisions.			
on March 26th, the North-West Mo	ounted Police sought to restore	government	
ontrol of Duck Lake.			
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		WMP and volunteers arrived at Duck	
ake but were confronted by a group			
	nutes, 12 of Crozier's men were de	_	
A few First Nations groups sought us			
ood for their starving people, a grou	up from the	and little Pine reserves raided	
tores at Battleford.	- A - 31 2 - d	and the Carrier and a state of the land and	
		war chief Wandering Spirit led a	
roup of First Nations people and ra	_		
mmunition. Mistahimaskwa (Big Bear) was against the use of violence, but the suffering of his people led im to follow Wandering Spirit. Before Big Bear could stop the violence at Frog Lake, 8 settlers and a			
Canadian government official were l		e at Flog Lake, o settlers and a	
9			
his incident would come to be know			
Inknown to the Metis and First Nat		_	
o reach Qu'Apelle on April 6th, a we		on March 30th, they were able	
	-	Canadian Pacific Railway was able to	
ransport these troops much quicke		canadian racine nanway was able to	
•		pegan the march to Batoche. The rest	
	n to Swift Current, and then heade		

	With Canadian troops in the area, under the command of Major General Middleton, the violence escalated, and the first battle occurred on April 24th at Despite being			
	outnumbered, the Metis were able to hold off the Canadian attack. When the battle was over, the			
	Canadian troops retreated, and the Metis withdrew to Batoche.			
•	On May 2nd, a force of Canadian troops under the command of William Otter, engaged with Ininew and			
	peoples camped near Cut Knife Hill. Anxious to punish the Pitikwahanapiwiyin			
	(Poundmaker) and his people for the looting at Battleford, the Canadian troops were forced to retreat to			
	the combined force of First Nations and Metis fighters led by Ininiew war chief Fine Day and the Metis			
	leader, Norbert Delorme.			
•	On May 9th, a force of about 850 Canadian troops laid siege to the approximately 300 Metis and First Nations fighters at			
•	Despite their preparations, the Batoche fighters could not hold out against the superior Canadian			
	numbers, supplies and fire power (guns).			
•	After a three-day siege, surrendered.			
•	On May 15th, surrendered.			
•	Dumont, along with several other Metis leaders who did not believe that they would receive a fair trial if			
	they surrendered, fled to the			
•	Pitikwahanapiwiyin (Poundmaker) surrendered on			
•	Mistahimaskwa () surrendered on July 2nd.			
•	The resistance was officially			
•	In the weeks and months that followed the Canadian government tried 71 Metis and First Nations people			
	for treason-felony, 12 for murder, and it tried Louis Riel for			
•	Poundmaker and Big Bear were sentenced to three years in prison, despite neither man supporting the use			
	of violence, and the fact that both had intervened to further violence.			
•	Neither man would serve their full sentence due to ill health. Both would within months of			
	their release from prison.			
•	On 27 November 1885 eight First Nations fighters, including Wandering Spirit, were hanged in			
_	for their participation in the resistance.			
•	On 6 July 1885 the trial of for high treason began.			
•	Riel's lawyers argued that the trial should have a 12-person jury, consisting to 6 English speaking and 6 French speaking jurors. They sought to have the trial moved to Manitoba. They also argued that because			
	Riel was an citizen that he should be deported to the US. All of these motions			
	were denied.			
•	Instead, the trial would be held in, with a 6-member jury, all of whom were			
•	English speaking Protestants.			
•	Riel's lawyers encouraged him to plead, as he had spent time in institutions for			
	the mentally ill and had begun to see himself as something of a prophet.			
•	Riel refused as he felt it would undermine the legitimacy of the resistance.			
•	Riel was found guilty of high treason and was sentenced to Riel was hanged on			
	16 November 1885 in Regina.			
•	The Metis had begun the North-West Resistance hoping to finally receive land and the freedom to make			
	decisions about their future on their terms. These hopes had been crushed by the			
	army, and the subsequent exile of Dumont and executions and trials of Resistance leaders.			

•	The events of 1870 (Red River) and 1885 (Batoche) had	_ the relationship between	
	the Metis and Canada.		
•	After 1885, the Canadian government once again tried to implement a		
	and once again it did not result in any significant benefit for the Metis people. I	Many did not receive the	
	scrip for land, and those that did often could not afford the equipment necessa	ry to work it and as a result	
	had to sell their scrip for less than half the land's value.		
•	Without a place to call home, many Metis people were forced to live on	lands.	
•	Road allowances were federally owned land and formed the borders between and could be used as pathways.	surveyed sections and land	
•	In many instances small shanty communities sprung up on these portions of puthe Metis would become known as People.	blic lands. In some places,	
•	Increasingly Metis peoples were marginalized from society. Some were able to	eke out a living by doing	
	hired manual labour (clearing stones from fields, building and repairing fences,		
	others maintained and continued to hunt in order to s	- :	
	others chose to move further north, seeking to make a living out of hunting and		
•	Metis who did not own land were denied the rights and services offered to oth	· · · =	
	(many Metis were sent to residential schools that had	•	
	Nations children).		
•	It wasn't until the 1930s and 1940s that governments attempted to address the	e social, economic and	
	political of the Metis on the prairies.		
•	The relationship between the Metis and the Canadian government was / is unio	que. Being of	
	heritage, First Nations and European, meant that they	were not seen as being	
	either and as such were treated differently than both.	_	
•	People of heritage were favored by the Canadian gove	ernment, who were actively	
	seeking European peoples to immigrate to Canada throughout the latter half o	f the 19th century and into	
	the early part of the 20th century.		
•	peoples were seen as a distinct group whose relations	ship with the Canadian	
government reached back to the preexisting Royal Proclamation of 1763, and such their relat			
	based more on negotiation and treaties.		
•	The Metis' relationship with the Canadian government was based onpolicies.	government	
•	The failure of the, despite it being the only time that t	he Metis people had an	
	opportunity to negotiate as a group, to protect their communal interests mean	t that the Metis who were	
	left without a land base to protect and promote their interests. This left the Me	etis without assurance of	
	special status in Confederation.		
•	Due to this fact, the Metis were left without a voice in	to fight for their rights and	
	interests.		
•	Many argued that because they had been left out of the treaty process, that th	eir inherent and legal title	
	to various lands across Canada had never been Howe	ver, the federal government	
	refused to negotiate with Metis communities, as they were not governed by th		
	communities composed of status Indians had any chance of negotiating with the	•	
•	This did not stop the government from applying provisions of the	_	
	Metis with the goal of assimilating them into Euro-Canadian society.		

•	This hogan to change in 1002, when the	Act was proclaimed by Queen Elizabeth I
•	on April 17th.	Act was proclaimed by Queen Elizabeth I
•	·	peoples of Canada as including First
	Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples.	
•	The leaders of the Assembly of First Nations, the N	Netis National Council, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and
	the Native Council of Canada attended the first thi	ree First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal rights in
	1983, 1984, and 1985. These conferences were sig	nificant because they marked the first time that
	Aboriginal leaders were officially represented in _	
•	Since their beginnings in the fur trade,	people have often been a people without a
	land or a voice.	
•		rst Nations culture or Euro-Canadian culture, the Metis
	have been forced to live apart, and to create their	own path within the Canadian context.
•	•	Act would provide them with the foundation they
	needed to be active in Ca	nada, while maintaining their distinctiveness.
•	As the events of 1870 and 1885 demonstrated, thi	s was not the case, and for many Metis, the hard choice
	to abandon their culture, to fit in with Euro-Canad	ian culture, was the only choice. It seemed that the
	government's goal of was	s working.
•	n 1996, people made up	2.8% of the Canadian population (829,080 out of
	29,610,000 people).	
•	By 2006, they were 3.8% of the	(1,237,660 out of 32,570,000 people).
•	There were 408,580 more	_ people in Canada in 2006, than in 1996.
•	The highest growth occurred among	people – their number nearly doubled.
Statistics Canada reports that some of this growth is because of a higher-than-average birth rate		
	because more people now identify themselves as	Metis.
•	Perhaps the process of di	d not work after all.

Formative Assessment

- 1. What was the historical significance of the North-West Resistance? What lessons can you learn from it?
- 2. Take a historical perspective to think about why the federal government's approach to Metis people and their petitions was different from their approach to First Nations on the prairies.