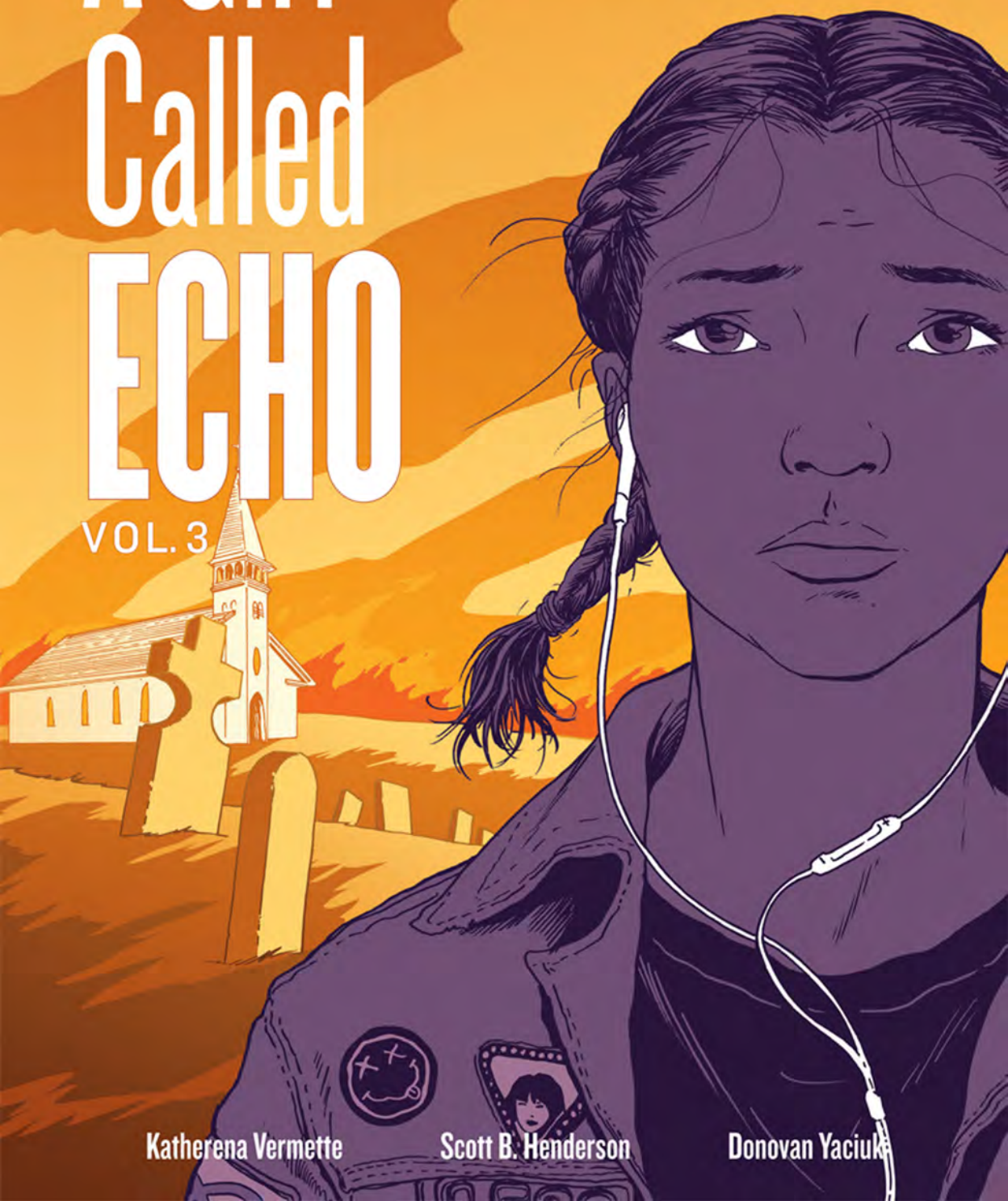


NORTHWEST RESISTANCE

A Girl Called ECHO

VOL. 3



Katherena Vermette

Scott B. Henderson

Donovan Yaciuk

NORTHWEST RESISTANCE

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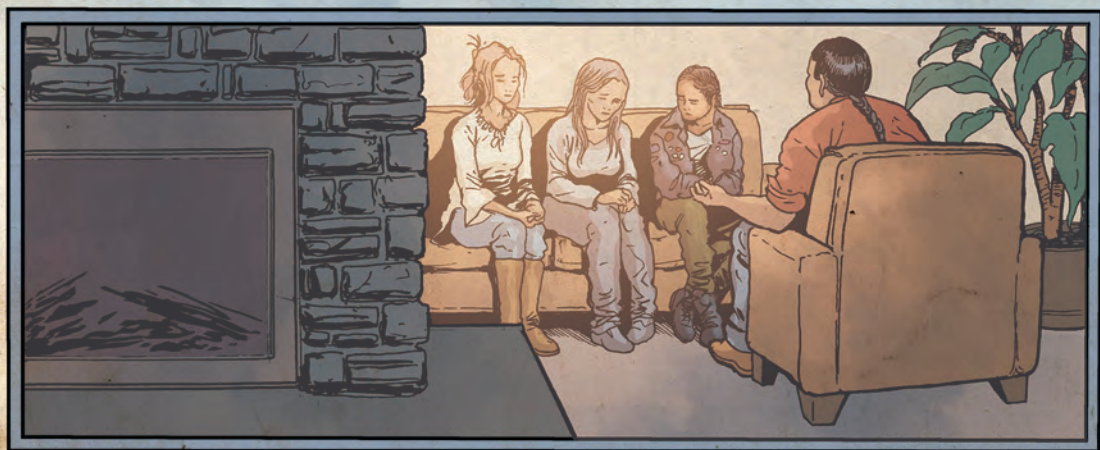
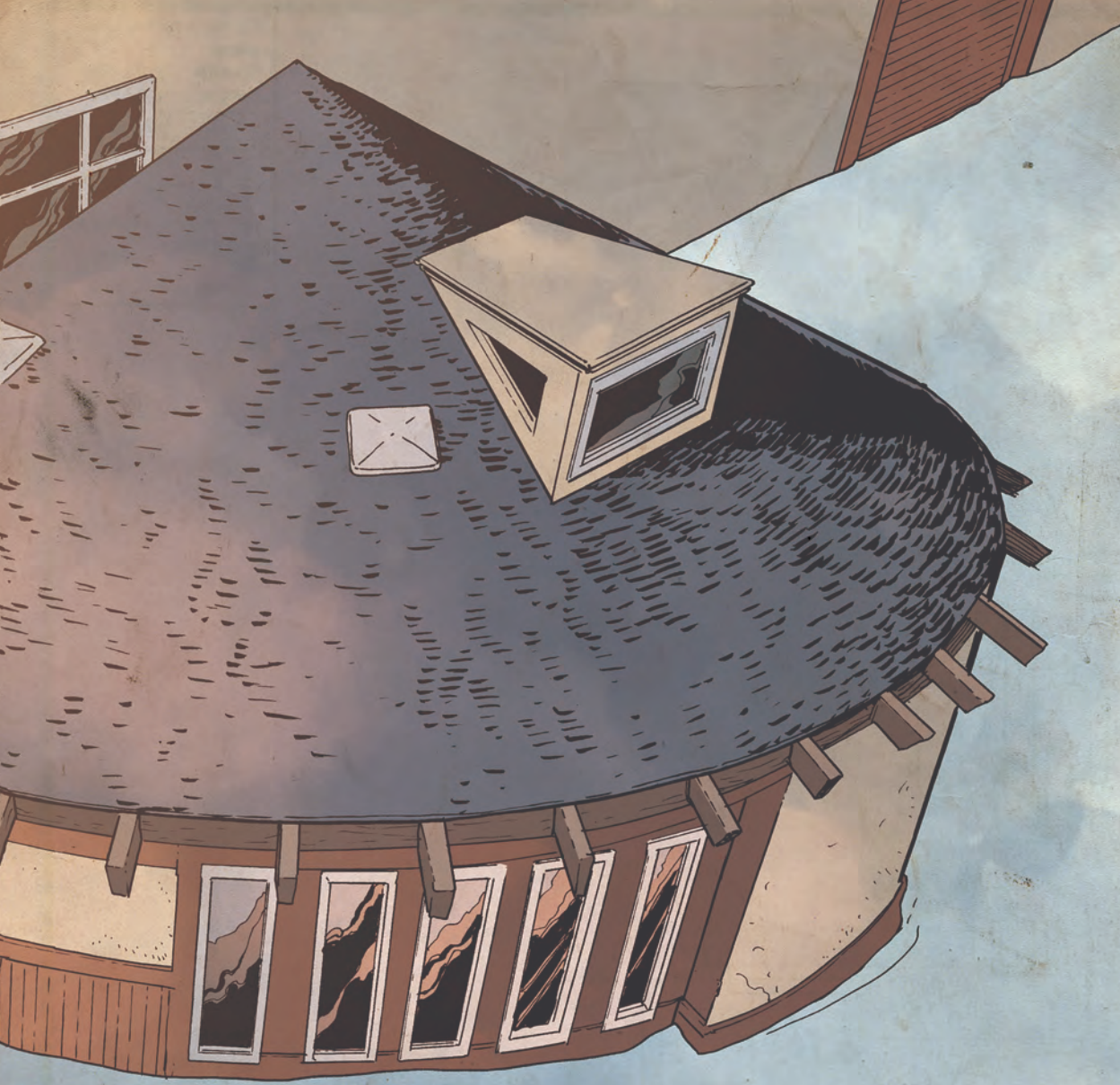
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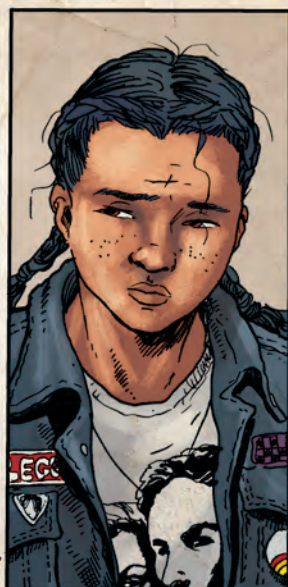


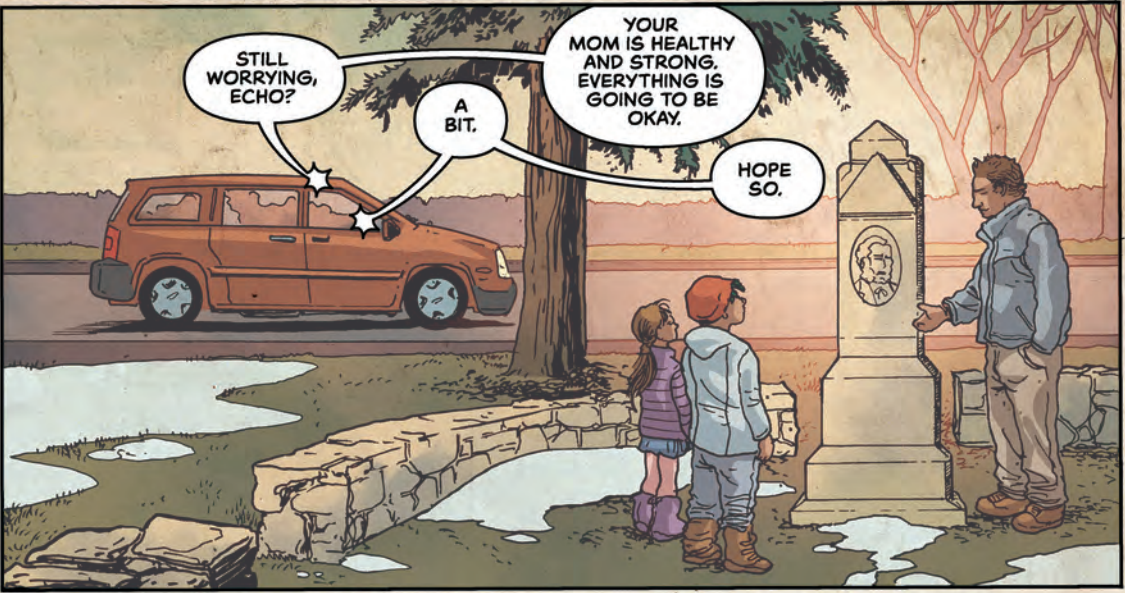
By Katherena Vermette
Illustrated by Scott B. Henderson
Coloured by Donovan Yaciuk

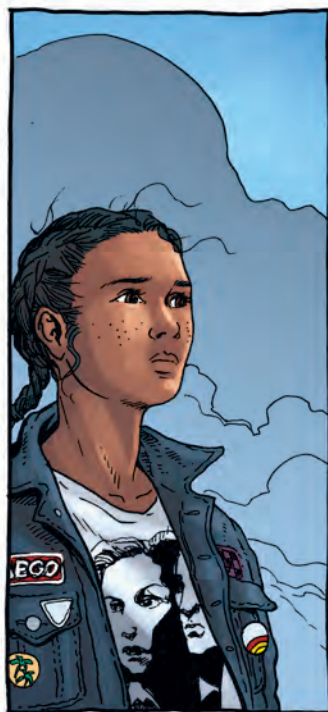

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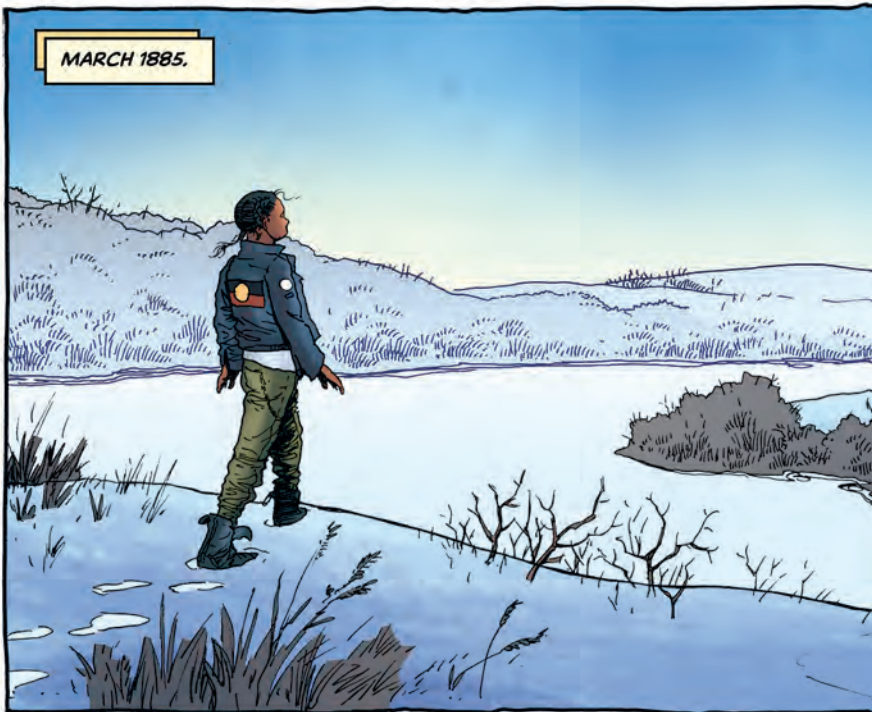








MARCH 1885.



ALLO,
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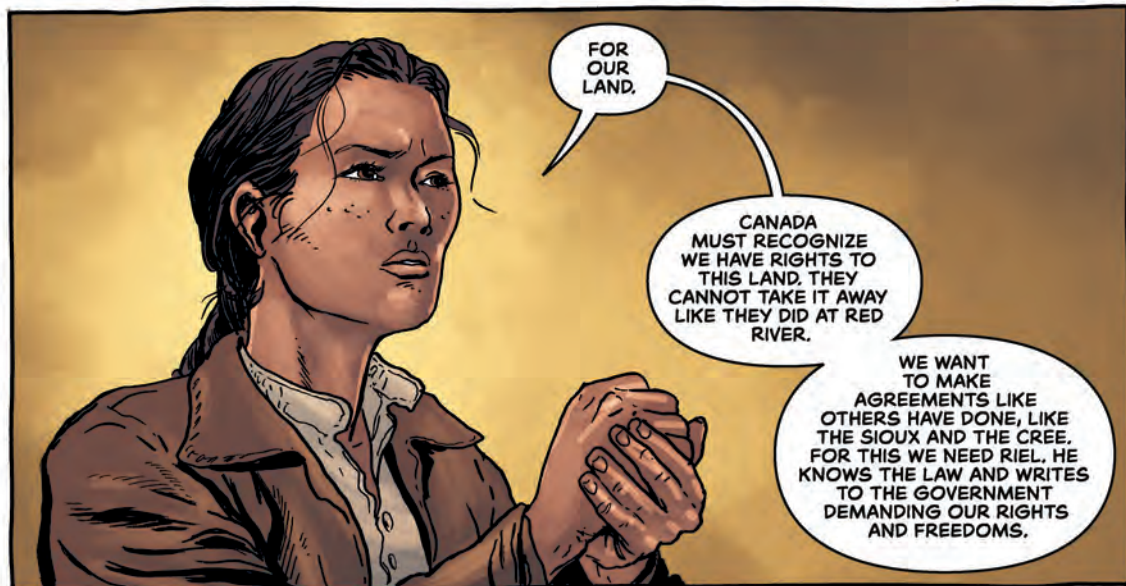


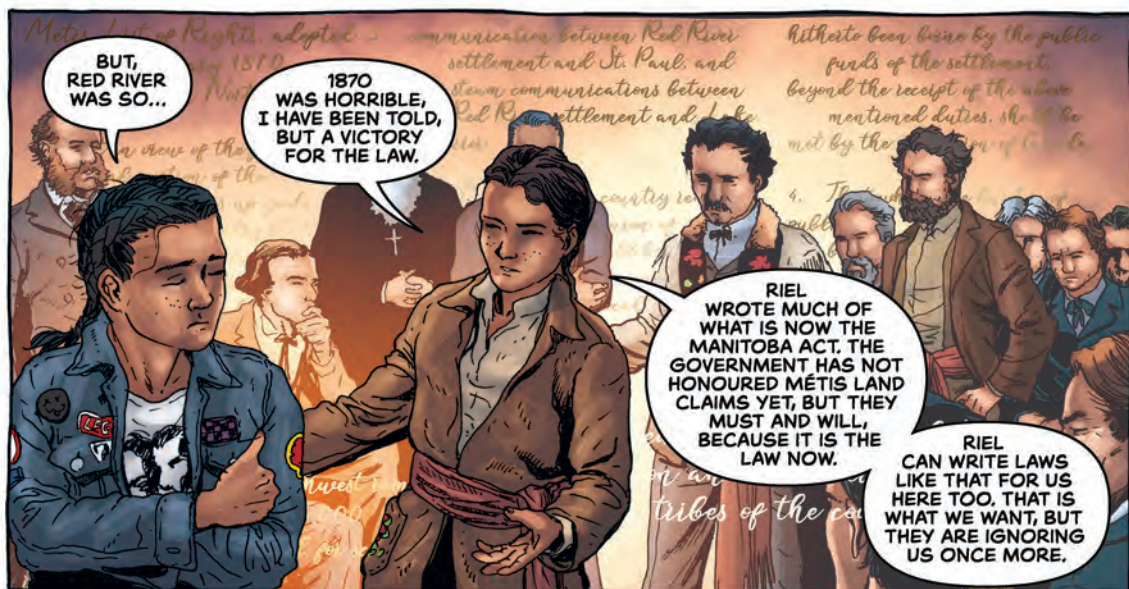
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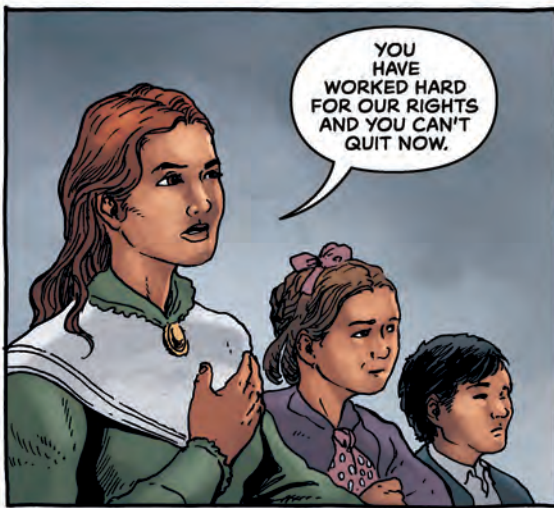
ARE
YOU GOING
UP TO THE
GATHERING?











TIMELINE OF THE NORTHWEST RESISTANCE

Following the Red River Resistance of 1870, things continued to change in the North-West Territory to the west. Many Métis had fled there from Red River, and settlers from Europe and the East were arriving daily. With the disappearance of the bison, the First Nations faced the end of their traditional way of life, yet the treaties that they signed with the Canadian government failed to deliver on their promises. They faced hunger and uncertainty. The Métis feared that title to their lands would not be honoured, and increased Anglo-Canadian settlement caused further unease. Many settlers had their own grievances with the government as well.

Out of this unrest came meetings, petitions, and delegations – all political actions designed to address these wrongs and seek redress from the Canadian government. At a meeting in March 1884, the Métis decided to invite Louis Riel back from exile. He and his family arrived in Batoche that summer.

1884

August 17 – Riel meets with Cree Chief Big Bear in Prince Albert to discuss coming together to present their peoples' concerns to the Canadian government.

Dec 16 – The first petition, outlining grievances and demands, is sent to the Secretary of State.

1885

March 17 – Chief One Arrow is invited to Batoche.

March 18 – While attempting to meet with Cree Chief One Arrow, Indian Agent John Lash is taken prisoner by the Métis. This is often cited as “one of the first overt acts of rebellion.”

March 19 – Louis Riel petitions Métis, First Nations, and settlers to gather at Batoche on St. Joseph's Day to make a plan of action. Many wanted armed conflict. Those who don't leave. Riel declares a Provisional Government of Saskatchewan, with Batoche as its headquarters.

March 26 – At the Battle of Duck Lake, a force under the command of Gabriel Dumont outmaneuvers a newly mobilized Canadian force, causing them to retreat.

April 2 – After hearing about the success of Duck Lake, Big Bear's son Ayawasis and War Chief Wandering Spirit lead a raid on the settlers at the Catholic Church in Frog Lake, killing nine men, including Indian Agent Thomas Quinn.

April 13 – Ayawasis and Wandering Spirit's forces capture Fort Pitt. No one is killed, as Big Bear had warned the soldiers to flee before the attack.

April 24 – 200 Métis led by Dumont ambush the forces of General Middleton, commander of the North-West Field Force, and slow the Canadian advance towards Batoche, in the Battle of Fish Creek.

May 2 – Poundmaker's band overwhelms Colonel Otter's troops in the Battle of Cut Knife. Otter and the townspeople flee for Battleford.

– Dumont's men begin to dig rifle pits around Batoche, preparing to make a stand against Middleton's forces.

May 7 – The steamer *Northcote* arrives at Gabriel's crossing, near Batoche, carrying munitions including the infamous Gatling Gun, and Middleton's soldiers. They loot Dumont's house, using materials as fortifications on the boat.

May 9–12 – The Battle of Batoche:

May 9 – The first day of fighting.

– The steamer *Northcote* is crippled when a ferry cable lowered across the river is raised by the Métis forces, knocking down its smokestacks and sending the boat downriver, along with the precious Gatling Gun, and away from the fighting.

- The Canadians advance on land. Dumont sets fire to the prairie to stop them. But the land is too wet for the fires to go far enough. The soldiers outnumber the Métis four to one.

May 10 – Dumont builds a large half-moon trench in the middle of town.

May 11 – Middleton moves north to an open field at Jolie Prairie. Métis follow in rifle pits.

May 12 – Many Métis and Cree fighters are killed and wounded, leaving only 50 to 60 of the original force still fighting. They are running low on ammunition and under persistent fire from advanced Canadian artillery.

- Canadian forces charge Batoche, capturing the town.
- Under the guard of the Métis fighters, women, children, and others begin to flee along the river.

May 15 – Louis Riel surrenders to Middleton.

May 26 – Poundmaker and his councillors are arrested at Battleford. Poundmaker is tried for treason August 17 and sentenced to three years in Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

June 3 – The Battle of Loon Lake. Low on ammunition and supplies, Wandering Spirit surrenders to the North-West Mounted Police.

July 2 – Big Bear surrenders at Fort Carleton. Tried on September 11 for treason, he is sentenced to three years in Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

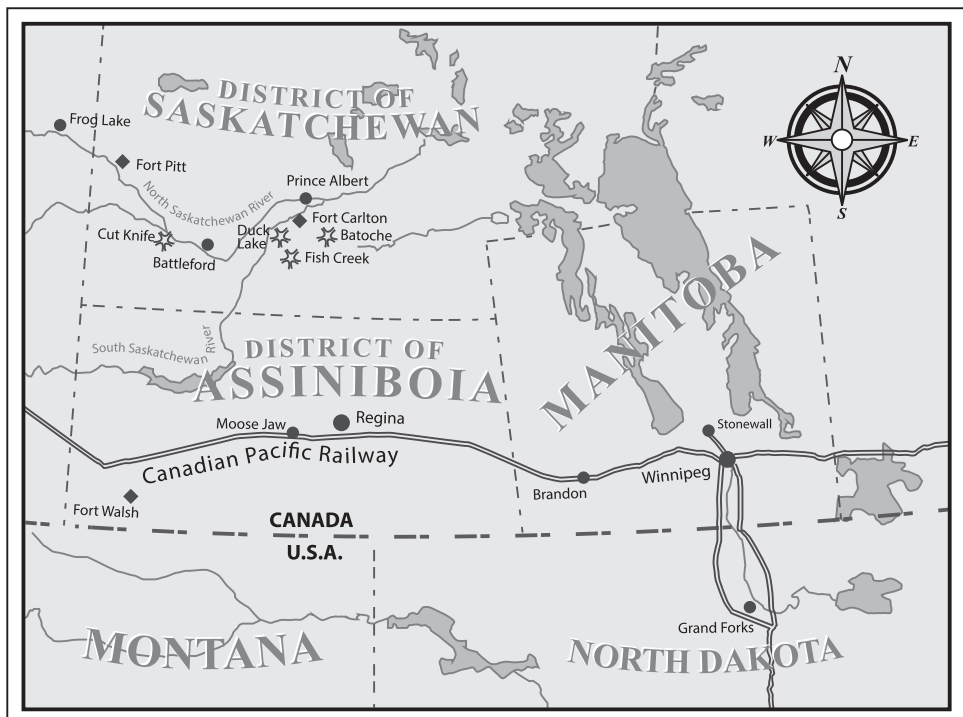
July 28 – Louis Riel's trial begins in Regina. He is found guilty of treason. Despite forceful public outcry in Francophone Canada and the jury's recommendations, Judge Hugh Richardson sentences Riel to death.

November 16 – Louis Riel is hanged at the Regina barracks of the North-West Mounted Police. His body is transported to Manitoba and he is buried at the Saint-Boniface Cathedral on December 12.

2019

May 23 – Poundmaker is exonerated by the Canadian government. Calls continue for the exoneration of chiefs Big Bear and One Arrow.

MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



GABRIEL DUMONT (1837–1906)

Gabriel Dumont was the Métis military leader during the Northwest Resistance. Born in the Red River Settlement to a family of prominent free traders and bison hunters, he fought his first battle at Grand Coteau when he was just 13 years old. He left Manitoba soon after the Red River Resistance, and became a Chief of the Hunt in the District of Saskatchewan. He was well known as a skilled diplomat and marksman, and he spoke seven languages.

The decline of the bison herds and rise of settlements prompted Dumont—as president of the Council of St. Laurent—to address the many challenges facing the Métis. In 1884, Dumont was a member of the delegation who traveled to Montana to convince Riel to lead the Métis in Saskatchewan.



In 1885, after the Canadian government refused to respond to dozens of petitions sent from the newly formed Provisional Government, led by Riel, residents called for armed response to ensure their rights to lands would be respected. The Northwest Resistance had begun, with Dumont as military leader and Riel as political leader. The Métis were finally outnumbered (250 to 1000) by Canadian forces at the Battle of Batoche (May 5 to 12, 1885).

Soon after the fall of Batoche, Dumont made his way to Montana and was soon joined by his wife Madeleine, who died the following year. After that, he had a brief stint performing with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and traveled extensively around Quebec and the east coast of the United States. He did not return to Batoche until 1890.

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In memory of Lawrence Barkwell.

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Treaty | Territory and homeland of the Métis Nation

Incredibly well-done...blending art, storytelling, and history together in a captivating way for readers young and old.

—NetGalley reviewers

What I love most about these books is the sense of identity Echo is gaining as the books progress. Each time she learns about her heritage she discovers a piece of herself.

Echo Desjardins just can't stop slipping back and forth in time. In *Northwest Resistance*, she travels to a period of turmoil. The bison are gone, settlers from the East are arriving daily, and the Métis and First Nations of the Northwest face hunger and uncertainty as their traditional way of life is threatened. The Canadian government has ignored their petitions, but hope rises when Louis Riel returns to help. However, battles between Canadian forces and the Métis and their allies lead to defeat at Batoche. Through it all, Echo gains new perspectives about where she came from and what the future may hold.

Northwest Resistance is volume three in the graphic novel series, *A Girl Called Echo*.



Author **Katherena Vermette** is a Métis writer from Treaty 1 territory, the heart of the Métis nation, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Her first book, *North End Love Songs* (The Muses Company), won the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry, and her novel *The Break* (House of Anansi) won the 2017 Amazon.ca First Novel Award. She is also the author of HighWater Press's *The Seven Teachings Stories* (2015).

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@Ouroboros09



Since 1998, colourist **Donovan Yaciuk** has done colouring work on books published by Marvel, DC, Dark Horse Comics, and HighWater Press, including *A Girl Called Echo* series and *This Place: 150 Years Retold*. Donovan holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from the University of Manitoba and began his career as a part of the legendary Digital Chameleon colouring studio. He lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

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