The date is March 19, 1885. The fugitive Louis Riel creates, along with the Métis leaders, the new Provisional Government of Saskatchewan. In the meantime, there seems to be no end in sight to the Cree uprisings. The young Canadian Confederation looks worryingly to the growing political unrest. It still seeks to assert its control over the District of Saskatchewan, where the Métis reluctant to obey Canadian law in their former Red River territory (now known as Manitoba) sought refuge after their failed 1869-70 revolution. Canada knows that the return of Riel, who spearheaded this uprising too, will cause nothing but trouble. And what about the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, possibly in peril in case of a generalized First Nations uprising? Too much is at stake. Reinforcement is sent to the North-Western Mounted Police. Tensions are rising: the Northwest Rebellion is about to begin.

The delegates will have to fight for the independence of their territory against the ever-expanding Canadian dominion. To stand a chance against superior forces, delegates may have to forge or break alliances with the Crees (the Nêhiyawak), the Blackfoot Confederation (Niitsítapi), the clergy or the settlers as well as develop battle strategies – perhaps even choose a new leader among themselves. The committee will be topic-free: who knows what may happen in the Northwest Rebellion. Instead, delegates will prepare and fight from battle to battle, and do everything in their power to win what could be otherwise the last stand of entire nations. Remember the great words of one of the Rebellion leaders, Gabriel Dumont to one of his wounded men: “Courage! As long as you haven’t lost your head, you’re not dead.”