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Lubicon Cree call for Olympic boycott

MONTREAL (CUP) - Native and university groups in Montreal have joined a call by the Lubicon Cree of Alberta to boycott the 1988 Calgary Winter

The Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake, south of Montreal, announced last week that they will demonstrate against the passage of the Olympic torch through their reserve in December.

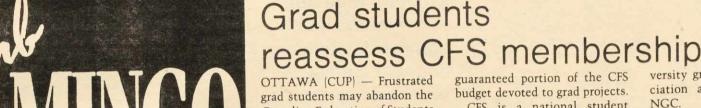
The Mohawk Band's decision of the Mohawks came as the anthropology department of McGill University voted to support the boycott.

As well, an ad hoc student group has been formed at McGill

to condemn the decision of the university's McCord Museum to participate in the Spirit Sings native art exhibit at the Calgary Glenbow Museum. The exhibit is part of the Winter Olympics celebrations and is sponsored by Shell Canada, a company which operates oil drilling on Lubicon

The Lubicon Cree hope the boycott of Olympic events will draw attention to the federal and Alberta governments' unwillingness to negotiate land claims

with the band. Without land claims, the Lubicon have been forced to let oil companies exploit their territory since the 1950s, destroying the vegetation and chasing animals away. As a result, the band suffers from chronic malnutrition and an epidemic of tuberculosis has broken out.



Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), says National Graduates Council (NGC) chair Jonathan Bremer.

"We don't want to fragment the student voice," said Bremer after the recent CFS general meeting in Ottawa, "but we are going to have to reassess out membership in this organization.

The NGC came to the meeting looking for a stronger commitment to graduate student issues. They did succeed in getting a voting representative on the CFS national executive, but did not get what they considered a more fundamental commitment: a

budget devoted to grad projects. CFS is a national student

lobby organization which represents over 400,000 students, including betweem 30,000 and 50,000 graduates who participate through the graduate wing (NGC)

CFS chair Tony Macerollo expected a warmer reception to grad proposals at the meeting.

"Some of the grad concerns are legitimate and there have been problems in terms of representation of grad issues in this organization," Macerollo said at the meeting. "But I think that by the end of this meeting they will find their concerns will be fully addressed."

But the major concern for the grad students, the lack of money for NGC projects, was not addressed, said Louise Quinn, president of the Memorial University graduate students' association and vice-chair of the

Quinn said the NGC cannot afford to undertake projects such as a study on why women in graduate work get a lower percentage of teaching-assistant jobs than men, or a cross-Canada survey of graduate students' living standards, with the current \$9000 budget allotted in the CFS

While most undergraduate issues are under provincial jurisdiction, graduate student issues can only be addressed through lobbying on a national level. Most financial grants for graduate student research come from federal granting councils, and financial assistance programme do not vary from province to province, as they do for undergraduates.

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