

serving the campuses of Vancouver Community College

Indian students protest

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She said the only means the First Nations People have of overcoming centuries of oppression is through education, and that anything else is

"highly offensive, and a means of manipulating us."

Native students protested the new education policy across the country Wednesday.

Three hundred students in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick marched to DIA offices. In Ottawa native chiefs in ceremonial dress talked to 300 people at the Parliament buildings. One hundred and fifty people demonstrated at the Regina Legislature, and 75 protested at the Fredericton Legislature. In Winnipeg and Saskatoon hundreds of students chanted outside the DIA offices. Six hundred people demonstrated in Sudbury. Three hundred marched in Thunder Bay, where nine students are now on a hunger strike at the DIA offices.

In BC, native students occupied

DIA offices in Vancouver, Nanaimo and Terrace. At the Vancouver DIA office a native student asked spokesperson Ron Penner if he could ask him a personal question.

'No one in DIA is native, there was no input from native people in the research of drafting stages, and it says nothing about self-government.'

"Do you have a degree?"

"Yes," Penner replied.

"Would a native person need the same education today for your job?"

"The specifications and expertise necessary for this field of work would require post secondary education, yes."

"That's what we're here for."

