Death sparks rally

With chants of “Canada out of Afghanistan,” around 20 members of an anti-war group rallied outside the Vancouver recruiting office of the Canadian Armed Forces yesterday.

The group, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), was protesting the death of Canadian soldier, Pte. Braun Woodfield in Afghanistan two days ago. Woodfield died when the armoured vehicle he was riding in crashed. Four others were injured.

MAWO co-chair Shannon Bundock said the group is calling for a public inquiry into the government's decision to increase the military budget by $12.8 billion and to send an additional 2,000 soldiers to Afghanistan.

Bundock said there was no public consultation around either decision.

In February, the group started a petition asking for the removal of troops from Afghanistan. So far they have collected 8,000 signatures.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation is a coalition of over 50 endorsing members, most of which are labour unions, student unions, indigenous groups, Women's Organizations, and groups from the third world.