

Iraq war veteran, Vietnam draft-dodger open Vancouver anti-war rally

By **MARIA HAMPTON**
Metro Vancouver

More than 900 marchers in Vancouver joined half-a-million other protesters around the world Saturday in demonstrating for peace.

Protesters marched through Downtown Vancouver to Sunset Beach as part of the Mobilization against War and Occupation (MAWO) demo and cheered as a 100-foot banner, reading US/UK out of Iraq, Canada out of

Afghanistan, was unfurled from the Burrard Bridge.

Twenty-two-year-old Iraq War veteran "Kyle," a former U.S. soldier now seeking asylum in Canada, opened the Vancouver rally that was also addressed by Coun. Tim

Louis and Downtown East-side poet and Vietnam War draft-dodger Bud Osborn.

MAWO spokeswoman Kira Koshelanyk said the timing of the protest had become "even more critical" with the federal government's announce-

ment of the deployment of 2,000 more Canadian troops to Afghanistan.

"People in Canada, and especially people in Vancouver, have shown that we are opposed to the U.S. war drive," Koshelanyk said.

metro news
Sept 26, 2005