

You can see it at McGill, you can see it across the country," remarked Kate Meier, vice-president (external) at McGill's

Post-Graduate Students' Society.

Anti-corporate sentiment also echoed from many of the marchers who chanted such slogans as,

"We want education, tax the corporations."

The Montreal protest wound through the downtown core for about an hour, culminating near the Mexican Consulate, where students aimed to show their support for Mexican students who recently ended a nine-month strike at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (NAUM).

Various sources on Wednesday reported that students in Mexico City were protesting outside the Canadian Embassy in solidarity with Access 2000. The reports could not be confirmed by press time.

In Ottawa, protest organizers estimated that between 2,000-3,000 university and high school students, as well as faculty, marched downtown before reaching Parliament Hill.

CFS national campaigns co-ordinator Pam Frache was very pleased with the turnout.

"I think today shows what we know already: that the majority of Canadians are with us in the fight for a restoration of education funding," she said.

On Parliament Hill, a number of people addressed the crowd - including Federal New Democratic

Party Leader Alexa McDonough - while joining student advocates in prompting the federal government to use their budget surplus to reinvest in social programs.

"If the Liberals have the guts, we have the solution!" said McDonough. "Let's reduce tuition fees! Let's phase out tuition fees!"

The federal surplus is estimated at more than \$95-billion over the next five years. According to Statistics Canada, tuition fees across the country for undergraduate arts programs have increased by 125.9 per cent since 1990, resulting in an average cost of \$3,658.

In Toronto, student protestors blocked entrances to York University. Protestors held cars for three minutes while they marched and let drivers know what was going on. Afterwards, they would let two cars in at a time.

The Toronto Transit Commission decided not to send their buses onto campus and were dropping students off at the perimeter of York.

"I think the strike would be more effective if they decided to strike in September or strike when it's registration and nobody decides to register and nobody decides to come to school in September," said Sandra Miller, a fourth-year psychology student at York.

In downtown Toronto, an estimated 2,000-3,000 students and supporters swarmed Queen's Park in an impressive wave.

"I've jumped through hoops long enough," Joel Harden, the Ontario CFS chair, told the crowd.

"Today we're taking a different route. Today you have to listen to the thousands of us."

Other notable speakers at the Toronto protest included Buzz Hargrove, president of the Canadian Auto Workers' Union, Ontario NDP leader Howard Hampton and Canadian Association of University Teachers President Bill Graham.

"The province of Ontario provides less to our universities than the private sector," boomed

Graham over the loud speaker, pointing to the legislative building. "This government is dedicated to the pursuit of private welfare."

Further west, more than 1,000 students from Manitoba's four major universities walked out of classes.

Following a march through downtown Winnipeg, students went to the University of Winnipeg to listen to speakers and bands. Students played a friendly game of street hockey, the prize for which was the "Chretien Cup."

And at the University of Regina, students started the Access 2000 day of action with a pancake breakfast, followed by speeches and activities throughout the day.

In Alberta, students at Mount Royal College in Calgary raised placards to show their support for Access 2000.

A rally was held at noon at Wyckham House, the Students' Association (SA) building, with speeches from campus leaders.

"I think we inspired and motivated some people

today to join the movement and to speak-out about their concerns," said Elsie Kipp, SA vice-president (external).

Mount Royal Students were very supportive of the campus initiative. About 60 signatures were gathered for the tuition freeze petition inside of an hour, and many students also filled out protest postcards that will be sent to MLAs and MPs. "The key is persistence," said Cherie Strid, a first-year journalism student at Mount Royal. "The government needs to know we care."

Meanwhile, out in British Columbia, the Simon Fraser Student Society's took students through an education maze before bussing protestors to downtown Vancouver.

Throughout the morning volunteers were handing out leaflets around campus for the event, while also encouraging students to attend the "night of celebration" DJ gig held later in the

evening at the Commodore night club.

And on Vancouver Island, more than 1,000 students from the University of Victoria (UVic) and

Camosun College gathered in front of the provincial legislature waving placards.

"Let's be fair, the money is there, spend the surplus now," they chanted along with the radical cheerleaders, a group of students who waved pom-poms made out of garbage bags.

Earlier in the day, between 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., about 200 students from UVic barricaded entrances to the University campus. In the afternoon, the protest moved from the campus grounds to the legislature.

"I think education should be free and at least more accessible than it is right now," said Kim

McKay, and a third-year English student at UVic protesting in front of the legislature.

