How Can My Existence Be Denied?

How can my existence be denied?
My mother live and hers before her
Have not scholars studied my peoples bones
My tribal neighbors have counted our numbers
Dictated over my families allotments
But I am not recognized by
A government of greed
Who have taken the best
Of my land and livelihood
As their own possession
I know the blood in my veins
Is that of a Chinook
Yet over and over
I have to fight the war
Of existence
In a land of false equality
And uneven measurements
I am who I am
With or without recognition
The name I will
Answer to is Chinook

Margaret 'Midge' Porter died in March of 2011. She was a member of the Chinook Indian Nation and was a passionate advocate for Native health and wellness. Her children and grandchildren are passionate advocates for the Chinook Nation.