

THE BRIDGE

MAMAWI ATOSKETAN NATIVE SCHOOL

TAKING FIRST NATIONS TEENS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

BEING THERE:

Grand Opening of Mamawi Atosketan Junior & Senior High School, Sept 28, 2018





Photo by Nwamiko Madden.

BEING THERE:

*Many Communities
Celebrate the Opening
of Mamawi Atosketan
Native School Junior
and Senior High School*

Grade 11 honour student Shaneek and her sisters in traditional regalia perform in Butterfly dance style at the Grand Opening in the new gym.

MANS' cake decorated by Heidi Morehouse, Assistant Superintendent/ Prairie Adventist Christian ESchool.



Pulling together a celebration for several communities is an exciting, labour-intensive exercise and an emotional high. At the historic September 28 event, church officials from as far as Washington, DC and the leader of the Samson Cree Nation came together with more than 300 members of the Alberta Conference and donors from all walks of life to celebrate.

Together, we celebrated the beginning of a new chapter in the story of life-changing education at MANS, but we also celebrated the goodness of The Creator, the family to which we all belong, and the amazing things that can be accomplished when we Mamawi Atosketan—keep working together. [AAN](#)



From Crowd to Community:
Top: Chief Vernon Saddleback, Lynn McDowell, & MLA Bruce Hinkley.

Middle & Bottom: Dan Jackson, President, North American Division.

More than 300 guests came together to celebrate the opening of the new high school, joining together in a traditional First Nations community finale - the Round Dance.



Top photo by Eric L. Ollila; other photos by Dean Ward, HighView Photo.



Ribbon Cutting Moment: Curtis Clarke, Deputy Minister, Alberta Education; Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation; Gail Wilton, Principal; Shaneek, Grade 11 student; Larry Wilkins, Honorary campaign chair and owner External Affairs Medical Spas; Gary Hodder, President, Alberta Conference.

A Welcoming Symbol: Students appreciate the cultural respect expressed by the tee pee-style main entrance and the natural gathering place nestled between the tee pee poles flanking the doors of the gym provided by First Nations businessman Danny Chase (Chase Office Interiors, Vancouver).



Bridge Campaign Staff in Debbie Letniak Library and Media Room: Warren Kay (Congregation Liason); Jenny Nickel (Campaign Administrative Assistant); Lynn McDowell (Campaign Manager).

NAD personnel and other dignitaries grace the Opening: L to R - Keith Richter, Treasurer, Alberta Conference; Bruce Hinkley, MLA Wetaskiwin/Camrose; Dr. Larry Blackmer, NAD Vice President for Education; John Jagersma, Executive Director, Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta; Dan Jackson, President, NAD; Ken Wiebe, Past President, Alberta Conference; Larry Wilkins, Honorary Chair of the Bridge Campaign for MANS; William Piersanti, Contractor; Lynn McDowell, Director Planned Giving and Bridge Campaign Manager, Alberta Conference; Giles Royer, Executive Vice President Industrial, Bird Construction; Janet Griffith, Director Education, Alberta Conference; Cody Vigeant, Program & Communications Associate, CWB Welding Foundation; Ken Denslow, NAD Assistant to the President; Gary Hodder, President, Alberta Conference.



Catch the Grand Opening Videos at: [Vimeo.com/albertaadventist](https://vimeo.com/albertaadventist)



**Total Praise gives
Praise and Thanks:**

Senior members of Mamawi Atosketan's sign language interpret a praise song—a performance that brought tears to the eyes of Chief Vernon Saddleback and others.

A Firm Foundation: Eric Ollila, Communication Director of the Alberta Conference, mans the guest book table that featured a video history of the school and those who helped lay the foundation for its success. The Donor List commemorating those who funded and built the elementary school in 1984 (behind the table) will be installed in the original school building across campus, which is now exclusively for K-Grade 6 students.



Ingraham Family Celebrates Leon's Third Industrial Arts Centre: Three generations of Ingrahams and 30 plus friends and relatives from as far away as Grandview and California turned out to celebrate. Pictured in the lobby of the Industrial Arts/CTS Building by Leon's plaque are Scott, Chip, Jodie, Arthur, Evelyn, and Lauren Ingraham.





Street Appeal: The main entrance to the new high school was designed by Zayda Steinke, whose architectural designs, from buildings to signage, have been well-reviewed in architectural literature.



Top right photo: Chief Vernon Saddleback.

Handcrafted Thank You: Top Donor and Honourary Chair of the Bridge Campaign Larry Wilkins receives a traditional gift of beadwork from beadwork artist Krista Abt (Class of 2017), who is now a student at Red Deer College.



Special thanks to Denise Nichols, event coordinator