

What's it Mean to You?

“It means so much to us and our family that you are doing this for our kids. We will never forget it.”

MANS Parent & Total Praise supporter
Maskwacis, Alberta



“I will never forget it in my entire life,” says Larell Littlechild, one of the Total Praise members who performed before NAD president Dan Jackson and GC president Ted Wilson. “I felt like we were famous.”

Indeed, the six girls who represented Mamawi Atosketan Native School at the Year End Meetings were the face of missions in Canada. As President Jackson told the assembled presidents and representatives of the North American Division, MANS is the largest Adventist First Nations school in North America. To outside observers, it's a unique success story in First Nations education.

But for the parents, band council members, chiefs, and other members of the Maskwacis community, the school and the invitation to perform in Washington, DC comes down to this: Their children matter to the Adventist church.

Getting MANS's sign language group and director Cheri Notice to the NAD's biggest annual event took extraordinary cooperation between the school and the larger community. Not one of the students had a valid passport, but teachers, parents and other members of the band resolved to “Mamawi Atosketan” (Cree for “Working Together”), and by working together, they saw extraordinary things happen.

“I'm so proud of my daughter and the school,” said Lori Baldry, parent of Jersey Threefingers, Grade 7. “This is such an honour for the school and the students to get to go.”

“Thank you so much for taking care of our kids,” wrote another parent. “They may never get a chance to do something like this again in their life... We will never forget it. It is just like a big family here at this school.”

As we show the Father's love in practical ways, walls come down. The family grows closer.

Watch Total Praise's October 30 performance at the General Conference offices for Presidents Jackson and Wilson, and hundreds of NAD delegates at www.mans1.ca (video section).

Pictured: Total Praise member Tashina Green in traditional Plains Cree regalia. Tashina is one of more than 200 students at MANS.



MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL

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