

NAD Gives Mamawi Atosketan Native School “Academy” Status, Recommends Expansion

The North American Division (NAD) granted “Academy” status to Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) during its October 30–November 2, 2014 meetings. This historic event makes MANS Canada’s first and only mission school a part of the sisterhood of Adventist senior academies.

Prior to the formal decision, General Conference personnel made an on-site visit to MANS on September 18 and 19, 2014. They left with the promise to recommend approval of the school’s application for official denominational status.

The NAD decision was preceded by permission from the province of Alberta to offer grades K–12 at MANS three years ago.

The blessing of the NAD education department will have a significant impact on high school completion rates among MANS students, says Wilton, who expects MANS completion rate to be far above the national average for First Nations students.

“Now we can carry our students from Kindergarten through to completion of Grade 12,” stated Principal Gail Wilton. “We can also provide direction to students for college and higher education opportunities. A K–12 program will allow us to significantly impact the completion of high school in this community. Currently we have one Grade 11 student making plans to get an education degree and return to MANS to teach.”

“Space is extremely tight right now,” said Wilton, citing MANS’ current enrollment of 184 students in a building intended to hold 120. “Upon fulfillment of the committee recommendations—one of them being increased physical space—there will be a re-visit for the final accreditation. Accordingly, we are making plans to move forward with a building program in the near future.”

Despite the addition of two classrooms last year, MANS continues to turn away more students than it can accept at every grade level, so the NAD requirement that the physical plant be expanded came as no surprise to Wilton.

“We are excited for the future!” said Wilton.

—Submitted by Linda Steinke and Lynn McDowell



Mamawi Atosketan Native School.

The MANS Grade 9 graduating class of 2012, pictured, will be the first to graduate with a MANS high school diploma conferred by the Province of Alberta and the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

