

What's it Mean to You?

"I believe in this school."

Levi Nepoose
MANS Parent
Professional dancer &
MANS Ground Breaking
Pow Wow organizer



Levi in regalia he made.
Photo by Crux Phiri.

The air was electric at MANS' High School Ground Breaking last May. It was charged in part by the dynamic presence of Northern Cree, the award-winning First Nations traditional music group, and by Levi Nepoose, the man who'd organized their performance. An imposing 6'4" in full regalia, Levi commanded the proceedings as wide-eyed students joined their musical heroes in the drumming circle—an experience they will never forget.

Famous in his own right as a competitive traditional dancer, Levi spoke with conviction as the camera rolled. "We don't live for today," he said, "we live for tomorrow. In my home, that's how I teach my kids."

It's the hope that's kept Levi and his community alive, and the reason Levi brought his children to MANS.

"I'm so grateful for what this school has done for my children," Levi says with passion when the camera is turned off. "I don't have a lot, but this pow wow—this is something I can give."

Levi's fervent hopes for his children have been tested, but MANS gave him reason to believe.

This spring, his second daughter will be part of MANS' third graduating high school class.

"Believing in this school and where they're at, where they're going," reflects Levi, "I wouldn't be here, and [my children] wouldn't be here if I didn't believe in this school."

A father's heart is revealed—a lesson of perseverance and of faith in the teachings his family found at MANS. Though everything else passes away, this remains to sustain us: faith, hope and (the greatest of these) our charity toward each other.

—By Lynn McDowell

Experience the ground breaking and Pow Wow finale and hear Levi's testimony in the video "Mamawi: A Ground-Breaking-Experience" at www.mans1.ca.

Contribute to the campaign to build MANS' high school at www.mans1.ca or make cheques payable to the Bridge Campaign, C/O Alberta Conference, 5816 Hwy 2A, Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5.



**MAMAWI ATOSKETAN
NATIVE SCHOOL**
RR 2, Ponoka, AB T4J 1R2

THE
BRIDGE
CAMPAIGN

One Year After the Party Building on Goodwill and Vision

"You are building a model that will be of value far beyond the walls of MANS."



Solid from the ground up—Llew Werner, Building Committee chair, advises that both the exterior school walls and the gym walls are constructed of precast concrete sections. In addition to having very good fire resistance and durability, the precast wall sections also have a substantial layer of high density foam insulation "sandwiched" in the middle of each section, which will result in a warm school. The gym walls were raised first and the gym roof trusses installed, and then the exterior walls and trusses will be installed. The roof will be sheeted and clad with metal roofing material.



On-site at God's Project—William Piersanti, who also drafted the plans in collaboration with architectural draftsman Zayda Steinke, coordinates and oversees the day-to-day work at the construction site. For all who in some way have contributed to this miracle school, there is no doubt about it: "This school is God's project" (Judy Gimbel, May 2016).

➤➤ Learn more about Mamawi Atosketan Native School and our students at MANS1.ca. You can also find out more about how The Bridge Campaign is changing the future of education among youth.

May 16, 2016, was a historic day for the Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) community, the Alberta Conference, and all Canadian Adventists. The ground-breaking ceremony and the powwow that followed were the culmination of years of faith and hard work on the part of the teachers and principals who are on the front lines; on the part of conference leaders, members, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada who support it and its mission; and the steering committee that works hard behind the scenes to keep the funds coming in to build the new high school.

One year later the walls are up, and the expectations are high. A charitable family foundation in Calgary with no prior connection to MANS was impressed with the success of our school and the positive effect it is having on our youth. The family generously donated \$80,000 to the construction of the high school, writing that "You are building a model that will be of value far beyond the walls of MANS."

Perhaps the greatest miracle of all, however, is the trust that has grown among the families of Maskwacis, who, despite the brutality many of them experienced in religious residential schools, believe in MANS. They entrust their precious children to us every day (see Levi Nepoose's testimony on page 4), believing that we will keep them safe and give them a reason to hope. ■

Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference and a huge fan of Mamawi Atosketan Native School.