

# The Bridge Campaign for Mamawi Atosketan Native School Launched

An eye-opening Sabbath School that highlighted the experience of our Aboriginal neighbours and MANS role in effecting change set the tone for the launch of The Bridge Campaign for MANS, Camp Meeting, August 2.

The Bridge Campaign's goal is to change lives and a community—a reserve that is often regarded as the toughest in Canada. The method? An Adventist mission high school that can accommodate 160 students and provide hope. The price tag: \$4.9 million, \$2.3 million of which was already in place at the launch.

Among the program highlights were speeches by Honorary Campaign Chair and First Nations businessman Larry Wilkins (External Affairs, Edmonton &

St. Albert) and Pastor Jose Rojas, who both spoke about their experience as Aboriginal people whose lives were radically changed by Adventist education\*.

Canada's only Adventist mission school serves students of the Maskwacis reserves exclusively. With a 95% daily attendance rate, a 25% enrollment increase over last year (now there's 218 in kindergarten-Grade 12) and learners eager to get to school and enthusiastic about what happens there, MANS is a haven of safety, caring and hope.

"As the former leader of missions, sending out over 100,000 a year," Rojas declared emphatically, "we need mission work right here.

"Now is our time to act.

"We are the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Jose told the packed auditorium. "These are our children. To see a Seventh-day Adventist logo at a place that needs it, to come in and see overcrowded classrooms—I say, 'Thank you, Jesus!'

"Give and invest in a life," Jose urged. "Let's make it count." —Submitted by Alberta Conference Communications

\*See page 5 for more on Jose Rojas' experience. Separate installments of Larry Wilkins' story can be found in the June 2014 *Alberta Adventist News*, and at [www.mans1.ca](http://www.mans1.ca) ("Campaign Detail" button). Larry's video, *Investing in Success* can be viewed at [www.mans1.ca/photos-videos](http://www.mans1.ca/photos-videos).



Larry Wilkins



Jose Rojas

Larry Wilkins, Honorary Campaign Chair and St. Albert businessman (left) and Jose Rojas, past Director of Youth Ministries and Volunteer Missions at the North American Division, and current President of MOVEMENTUM, (right) share their experiences as First Nations/Native Americans whose lives were changed by Adventist Education.

# The 1-2-3 Principle

## MANS' Founding Teacher Speaks at Launch

On September 21, 1984, I got a call from the Alberta Conference asking if I would teach at a new mission school in Hobbema. Four days later, we opened with 17 students; we finished the year with 37. It was a difficult year. We moved to three different buildings.

At the open house in April I was thrilled to see how MANS has become a thriving, safe, happy place for 175 students and 15 teachers. God's dreams are always far beyond our wildest imagination.

In this envelope I have three pieces of currency, there is a one, a two, and a three.

One. Because it always starts with one. One dream. One prayer. One God. One equals pure potential! Raw unbridled energy.

But one by itself is lonely. It longs for two. Two for conception. Two for conversation. Two who work together in harmony on a common goal. The Bible speaks of the power of two.

But the real magic happens when you add three and more.

Look what's happened at MANS. Ed Desjarlais had a dream, I had a skill. Marlene Sinclair, my teacher's aide, had

experience with the culture. Pastor Van Diemen had dedication, as did Linder Calderbank who carried the school through the second year.

Because of the trust of parents, support of the Conference, skill of the teachers, and the support of many who have added their love, MANS has become what it is today. But I guarantee

none of it would be possible without the prayers of every single "one."

Sometimes it seems like our contribution is not much. But one tiny pebble can produce effects that ripple forever.

Please join me in supporting the expansion of Mamawi Atosketan and its new High School.

—Sandra Kiehlbauch Toms, delivered Aug. 2



Sandra Kiehlbauch Toms, MANS' first teacher/principal, receives applause (see above for speech). Pictured (L to R): Warren Kay (Church Liaison), Larry Wilkins (Honorary Chair), Lynn McDowell (Director Planned Giving & Campaign Manager), Sandra Kiehlbauch Toms, Ken Wiebe (Conference President).



Vicky and Pastor Peter Ford share their conversion experience.



Dr. John McDowell, Acting VP Academic of Burman University, provides little-known historical background.



Darlene Reimche, Director Sabbath School and other ministries, coordinated the eye-opening Sabbath School program.