

James Goodwin and Ricardo Wesley died in a tragic jail fire at a NAPS detachment in Kashechewan on January 8, 2006 while the community was powerless to help them. The tragedy garnered national attention on the inadequacies of firefighting resources in First Nation communities.

Kashechewan First Nation, a remote fly-in community along the west coast of James Bay with a population of 1,600 people, has trained a volunteer fire department and has acquired fire trucks which will not be delivered to the community until a fire hall, which is currently under construction, is completed. Until all the equipment is in place, the community will continue to be unable to respond to fires.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities within James Bay Treaty 9 and Treaty 5 territory – an area covering two-thirds of the province of Ontario.

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