

George Wesley is the father of Ricardo Wesley. Ricardo Wesley died in a jail fire on January 8, 2006, which garnered national attention on the inadequacies of firefighting resources in First Nation communities. Ricardo Wesley perished along with James Goodwin while the community was powerless to help them.

The Wesley and Goodwin families have waited more than two years for an inquest into the death of their sons. An inquest by the Office of the Chief Coroner into the death of Ricardo Wesley and James Goodwin was to begin in Cochrane, Ontario on October 20, 2008 but has been postponed to a future date due to the discovery that the creation of the jury rolls in northern Ontario may not be in compliance with the Juries Act. It is expected that the inquest will address the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Ricardo Wesley and James Goodwin as well as address the threat of fire in remote First Nations communities and the need for adequate firefighting and fire prevention services.

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

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