

# La Gatineau

## All for one to Kazabazua: \$20,000 raised for Éric Villeneuve

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### KAZABAZUA -

The population of Kazabazua has shown his generosity and solidarity by collecting some \$7 286,80 to help to the young Éric Villeneuve, victim of a serious road accident which resulted in the loss of the use of his lower body, at a party that was being held Saturday at the Community Center of Kazabazua

This pot, added to the \$ 13,000 harvested via a Facebook fundraising campaign, brings to more than \$20,000 the sum collected for this young volunteer firefighter who had joined the brigade of Kazabazua three years ago.

Remember that young Éric Villeneuve has been victim of a road accident returning from his job at Costco in Gatineau on December 22. Éric Villeneuve is asleep at the wheel. The EMTs and paramedics in the Outaouais and his Firefighter friends of Kazabazua intervened at the scene of the accident. "It was a shock for us all to find our friend Eric in this precarious situation." "We will be able to talk live from his hotel this evening," to indicate the firefighter Frank Dutton, who animated the evening Mélanie Irwin, Dominique Tonetti and Gaby Chamberlain.

"We were all there to help Eric." Kazabazua people responded well to our invitation. "We are pleased with this outcome," says Mélanie Irwin who did not take credit for organizing this evening, saying that it was a team idea. She welcomed the fact that several volunteer firefighters of Kazabazua, Danford Lake, Bristol, and Lake Sainte-Marie moved to participate in the evening.

The young Éric Villeneuve was able to be present at the party but he still addressed to the population of Kazabazua via Skype. The community centre was filled to overflowing. "It warms my heart to speak to you tonight. Thank you all for what you have done for me, Fanny, and our three children (Marc-André, Alexander and Marie-Pierre). My firemen friends of Kazabazua are my second family. Thank you once again!"



Line Fournier, mother of Eric, very moved, was able to converse with his son. «I can't believe any of the generosity of the people of Kazabazua.» "Really, it's fantastic."

Marc Fournier, Eric's uncle, told us that it is not surprising that his nephew Eric has become a firefighter. "My father, Andre, was a firefighter for the city of Gatineau for 30 years. He had accompanied his grandfather to a ceremony while he was only 4 years old. Already, he wanted to like his grandfather, becoming a firefighter someday. He fulfilled his dream."

### **A man with a big heart**

Daniel Chipman, grafted to a heart in 2011, and who founded the angels of the heart, a foundation that collects funds for the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, held to confirm her affection for the young Éric Villeneuve handing an envelope containing the sum of \$1,000 to the organizers of the evening. "The people of Kazabazua showed me to fish, to hunt, to live and respect." Kazabazua firefighters are my allies and I am their friend. We will stay here on July 22. "We will be not less than 180 motorcycles."

Some 32 prizes have been rounded up during the evening. Kazabazua firefighters will deliver a check over \$ 20,000 to Éric Villeneuve wife, Fanny, on Wednesday evening at the local Firehouse.

