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ᐱᓃᓃᓂᓃᑦ YEAR 49

ᑦᑎᐱᓂ. September 16, 2022

ᐃᓃᓃᓂᓃᑦ NUMBER 26

## French Oblates plan to kick out Johannes Rivoire

NTI, victims of former Nunavut priest's alleged abuse met with Rivoire Wednesday

Emma Tranter

For years, Inuit in Nunavut have called for Rev. Johannes Rivoire to return to Canada to face justice over allegations of sexual abuse, but they were met with silence.

On Wednesday, one of the victims of his alleged abuse, Steve Mapsalak, and two children of another victim, Marius Tungilik, met face to face with the now 91-year-old priest, at the French Oblates' headquarters in Lyon, France.

Rivoire, a Roman Catholic priest in Nunavut from 1960 through the early 1990s, was charged with historical sexual abuse in relation to allegations in 1998, but those charges were stayed in 2017.

RCMP laid a new

charge of indecent assault against Rivoire earlier this year.

Rivoire left Canada in 1993 and has lived in France since. Even though France has an extradition treaty with Canada, French nationals are protected from extradition.

The delegation, which arrived in Paris on Monday, had just pulled into the Lyon train station on Wednesday when its members were notified Rivoire had agreed to meet with them.

Clearly emotional, delegation members took seats at a boardroom-style table in the French Oblates' headquarters, sitting across from Rev. Vincent Gruber, who leads France's Oblates, also known as the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



Kilikvak Kabloona, NTI's chief executive officer, speaks to the media following a meeting between Rev. Johannes Rivoire and the NTI delegation inside the French Oblates' headquarters in Lyon, France, while David Aglukark, an NTI employee also part of the delegation, looks on. (Photo by Emma Tranter)

The delegation's meetings with Rivoire — which lasted two hours — and with Gruber were both closed to the news media.

Gruber told reporters in French that the Oblates have begun the process of removing Rivoire from their congregation, a process that takes up to three months and that could go all the way to

the Vatican.

Gruber said he had to act, given Rivoire's repeated refusal to co-operate.

"He loses all his rights on our side," Gruber said. "It's because he didn't obey the order to present himself to justice [in Canada]."

"I believe the victims. Since the beginning. I have no problem with

that," he added.

The meeting with Rivoire came less than 24 hours after the delegation, led by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., appealed again to French authorities for Rivoire's extradition. That appeal was met with refusal.

Gruber also said the Oblates plan to appeal to the Vatican to push

Rivoire to face his charge in Canada.

He said he believes it's essential that Rivoire face justice in Canada.

"Not only for the presumed victims, for the Inuit Peoples, but also for the Oblate missionaries and the Catholic Church," he said.

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## Nunavut mom mourns slain daughter

Suspect arrested in killing of Savanna Pikuyak, who left Sanirajak last week to study in Ottawa

Meral Jamal

Nearly two weeks ago, 22-year-old Savanna Pikuyak left Nunavut and travelled more than 2,500 kilometres to attend Algonquin College in Ottawa.

But her dream of becoming a nurse quickly took a tragic turn.

On Monday, Ottawa police identified Pikuyak, from Sanirajak, as the victim in a homicide and say

a 33-year-old suspect is in custody.

In a news release, Ottawa Police Service said that on Sunday officers were called to an address on Woodvale Green, about two kilometres south of the college, and discovered Pikuyak's body there.

Nikolas Ibey, 33, was charged with second-degree murder. He appeared in court Monday. Police did not reveal the

cause of death.

On Tuesday, Pikuyak's mother, Sheba Pikuyak, remembered her daughter as someone who was "smart, bright" and "had a heart of gold" combined with a biting sense of humour.

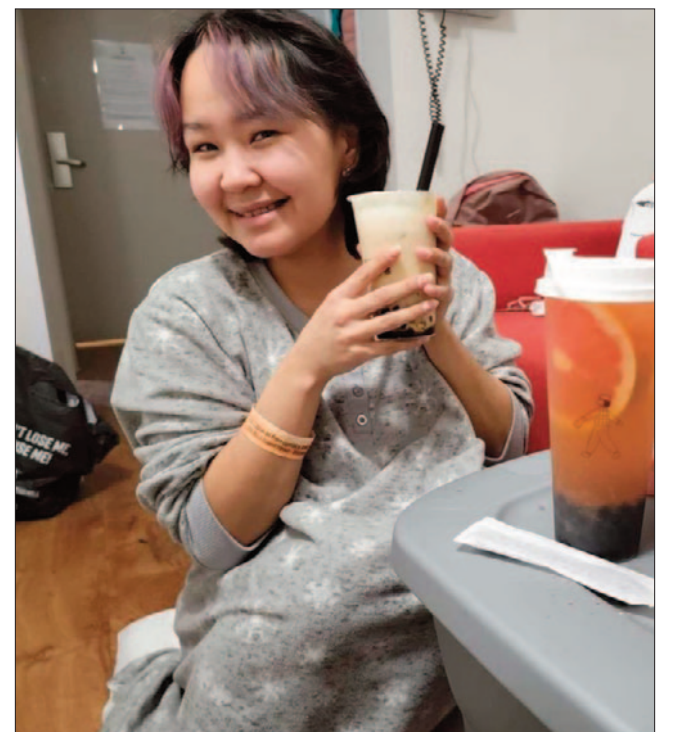
"She cared a lot about her family," Sheba Pikuyak, who lives in Sanirajak, told Nunatsiq News via Facebook. "She loved her twin nephews, Jarell and Gianni, eight-years old and Alexis, who will turn four. They were crazy about her Aja-aunt."

She said that as a young Inuk, Pikuyak was active and engaged in ed-

ucational programs through initiatives such as Students on Ice, Northern Youth Abroad and Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa before deciding to attend the nursing program at Algonquin College this semester.

Her mother called her extremely talented, noting Pikuyak taught herself to knit, crochet and bead, among other arts and crafts she was fond of.

"She was also such a good cook and had a vast knowledge of everything in general," Sheba Pikuyak said. "She loved



Ottawa police have identified Savanna Pikuyak, of Sanirajak, as the victim of a weekend homicide. (Photo courtesy of Sheba Pikuyak)

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