Rivoire's agreement to meet delegation came as a surprise

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Gruber said the Oblates also want a commission to look into past actions and why there was so much "delay and silence" from the Catholic Church regarding the allegations against Rivoire.

Rivoire refused to speak to media who were waiting inside and outside the Oblates' headquarters, though at one point it seemed like he might come out, Gruber said.

Before NTI arrived in France on Monday, Rivoire had told the delegation through his lawyer that he would not meet with them.

Kilikvak Kabloona, NTI's chief executive officer, told reporters that in the meeting, Rivoire denied all allegations of abuse.

"He does recall indi-

viduals in Nunavut and then he completely denies any allegations," she said, adding language was not an issue.

"It is clear to me that Rivoire understands English. He acknowledges that he remembers Steve and other individuals in Naujaat," Kabloona said.

"He had nodded his head when Steve was speaking, and yet he denies everything."

Kabloona also said Rivoire speaks Inuktitut and that he understood Inuktitut when it was spoken in the room.

He refuses to travel to Canada because of his "skin condition," Kabloona said.

Gruber said getting Rivoire to agree to the meeting was "very, very, very difficult."

He said the Oblates

plan to continue to urge Rivoire, who was still in the Oblates' headquarters on Wednesday evening, to fly to Canada to face justice.

NTI, which is leading the delegation, has purchased a plane ticket for Rivoire to return to Canada on Friday with the delegation.

"I want to see Rivoire on that plane. That is clear," Gruber said.

"We will speak with him again strongly ... I can't force him. I will do everything possible to try to convince him."

Gruber was also clear that the Oblates are not paying for Rivoire's living expenses, his lawyer or his pension.

"We are not paying for Rivoire for a very long time," Gruber said. "We are determined to pursue



Rev. Vincent Gruber speaks to reporters outside the Oblates' headquarters on Wednesday. (Photo by Emma Tranter)

our efforts to the maximum to convince Johannes to present himself

to the Canadian justice system."

The other members of

the delegation declined to speak to media immediately following the meeting.



Members of the NTI delegation settle into the room where they met with Rev. Vincent Gruber before meeting with Rev. Johannes Rivoire in another room. (Photo by Emma Tranter)

NEWS OTTAWA ₫Ͻͺͺ.

Nikolas Ibey, 33, charged with second-degree murder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

replying sarcastically, as she loved making people smile and laugh.

"She was truly exceptional."

She said Pikuyak gave birth to a boy in Dawson Creek, B.C. earlier this year and that the child was adopted by Leesa Leroy, a former teacher in Sanirajak.

In an interview via Facebook, Leroy, who said she was with Pikuyak at the hospital when the baby was born, said

Pikuyak "really was a stepbrothers Darryl and truly special and unique Jonah, her youngest person." brother Dawson, and her

"Her death has left a hole in so many people's hearts," she told Nunatsiaq News.

Leroy said her friend's killer "has ruined so many people's lives."

"I think it's important to share Savanna's story ... It's impossible to wrap my head around how this could have happened to Savanna."

Pikuyak is survived by her mother and father, David Angu Akearok, stepbrothers Darryl and Jonah, her youngest brother Dawson, and her sister Geneva, who Sheba Pikuyak said was Savanna's best friend.

Ottawa police are asking anyone with information about Savanna Pikuyak's death to contact homicide investigators at 613-236-1222, ext. 5493.

Tips can be provided anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers tollfree at 1-800-222-8477 or online at crimestoppers.ca

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EDITORIAL dipbyddpc Dibbybygc

Managing Editor ላኦርናበት ላናየትረልት

Corey Larocque dへ ことら coreyl@nunatsiaq.com

Nunavut Editor ውር ቃርና ፭ናቃቦት ረሷት

Emma Tranter ムdL つらっつ emmat@nunatsiag.com

Web Editor 'bና\⊅ታቃ**dና ⊲ંናዖ**⋼<mark>ሪ</mark>Δ**수** Gord Howard J⊲^c H⊲▷≪^c

gordh@nunatsiaq.com

Reporter ⊃১Ს৬১๓०००

Madalyn Howitt LCc Hd⊳&c madalynh@nunatsiaq.com

Reporter つちしゃくこうゃん Meral Jamal 「トラ・ゥ」に meralj@nunatsiaq.com

Reporter つくしゃく こうべゃ ハ

David Lochead $C\Delta \triangle^c \dot{\subset} H\dot{\triangle}^c$ davidl@nunatsiaq.com

Reporter つくしゃく トラット Jeff Pelletier トマット へ へ へ ム ieffp@nunatsiag.com

Reporter つちしゃちに ▷ ペゃ ∩
David Venn C△& c & く o
davidy@nunatsiag.com

ADVERTISING Lσ\⊳ረ⊂ሲት

PRODUCTION ፭ናьዮ৬ረΔት

Andrea Gray 4°Da4 Jà Krista Klassen da'C bàs

Translator ⊃P⊂ላ心 Therese Kunuk ハムィ d♪ トローン

Proofreaders በበና የተለተው የ**ዕጋት** ነብ Clifford Edmund የርማና Δላናኒ Patricia Elkins <ጋሲ√ላ Δላየ^ልነ

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