



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

*Office of the Bishop*

1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC, V8X 2A1 - Tel: (250) 479-1331 - Fax: (250) 479-5423 - Web: [rcdvictoria.org](http://rcdvictoria.org)

## News Release

**For Immediate Release**

**August 6, 2010**

### **Bishop Gagnon Statement on Sexual Abuse Charges**

Victoria, BC – Bishop Richard Gagnon of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria made a statement today regarding sexual abuse charges laid against a former parish priest.

“I am truly sorry for any harm caused by this situation and the impact on all those affected.” said Bishop Gagnon. “We understand the severity of sexual abuse and its effect on peoples’ lives. This behaviour is unacceptable for anyone, especially those in a position of trust.”

The Diocese of Victoria has a thorough recruitment screening process for parish priests, and has criminal record checks done on employees and volunteers working with children. Under today’s standards, Father Jacob would not have been hired by the Diocese.

“We are fully participating with the Saanich Police in their investigation,” said Bishop Gagnon. “We encourage anyone with information to report it to the police.”

Counseling services are available to anyone harmed by this situation.

The Diocese of Victoria ministers to approximately 94,000 Catholics in 40 parishes and missions on Vancouver Island.

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For information contact:  
Bishop Richard Gagnon  
Phone: 250-479-1331  
Email: [chancery@rcdvictoria.org](mailto:chancery@rcdvictoria.org)