

Bishop faces charge of sexual misconduct

Official relieved of duties while complaint probed

BY CAROL COLES
STAFF REPORTER

An auxiliary bishop with Toronto's Catholic archdiocese has been relieved of his duties pending the outcome of an internal investigation into sexual misconduct.

Bishop John Knight, 58, denies the charge, which is based on a single complaint, said the official conducting the inquiry.

Monsignor Edward Boehler said Knight "is on administrative leave. He's been relieved of all public duties. Right now, he's just doing other things, like private greeting and prayer."

Knight has been with the archdiocese as an auxiliary

bishop since 1992, spending the past two years overseeing some 50 or 60 churches in the western pastoral region that encompasses Mississauga.

Prior to his appointment to Toronto, he spent 25 years as a priest in the St. Catharines diocese.

On March 1, a "private and confidential" letter from Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic was faxed to hundreds of priests within Toronto's archdiocese, alerting them to events.

Boehler would not comment on either when or where the alleged offence occurred or whether police here or in St. Catharines are investigating.

Toronto police couldn't confirm whether they are looking into the complaint.

Boehler said he plans to conduct his inquiry "very thoroughly and very carefully. I have no idea how long it will take."

