NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER
Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (http://ncronline.org)

Nova Scotia bishop to face child porn charges

Deborah Gyapong Catholic News Service | Oct. 2, 2009

OTTAWA -- Retired Bishop Raymond J. Lahey of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, turned himself in to Ottawa police Oct. 1 to face charges of possession of and importing child pornography.

Bishop Lahey, 69, who abruptly resigned as bishop for "personal reasons" Sept. 26, was detained Sept. 15 at the Ottawa airport by the Canada Border Services Agency, after officers conducted a preliminary search of his computer and discovered "images of concern."
t
tBorder agents seized the bishop's computer and other "media devices" for forensic investigation, then released the bishop.
t
tOn Sept. 25, Ottawa police formalized the charges and issued an arrest warrant.
tPope Benedict XVI accepted Bishop Lahey's resignation Sept. 26 and appointed Halifax
tArchbishop Anthony Mancini as Antigonish's apostolic administrator.
t
tIn August, Bishop Lahey had announced a more than $13 million settlement agreement for a class action lawsuit for clergy sexual abuse dating back to the 1950s. He had been widely praised for his pastoral concern and pursuit of justice in the agreement.
t
tThe pornography charges became public Sept. 30.
t
tIn a statement issued that day, Archbishop Mancini said that "for the priests and people of the Antigonish Diocese, this is a terrible moment."
t
tThe archbishop told the Halifax *Chronicle Herald* newspaper Sept. 30 that he had spoken to Bishop Lahey on his cell phone for a few minutes earlier that day, after learning about the charges.
t
t"He certainly indicated to me that he was not feeling very good at this point," the archbishop told the newspaper. He said he did not know where the bishop was, although he thought he was still in Canada.
t
tIn a television interview with CTV News Sept. 30, Archbishop Mancini said Pope Benedict must have known the grave reasons behind Bishop Lahey's resignation, but that he and the others in the Antigonish Diocese were unaware of them.
t
tBishop Lahey became bishop of Antigonish in 2003 after 17 years as a bishop in Newfoundland.

Source URL (retrieved on *09/02/2014 - 05:42*): http://ncronline.org/news/accountability/nova-scotia-bishop-face-child-porn-charges