

## ***Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon***

### **Office of Communications**

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### **Statement from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in response to survey from The Fifth Estate, CBC, November 8, 2019:**

A Diocesan Committee established in the spring of 2018 now oversees safeguarding policies in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, which consist of a Covenant of Care safe environment policy and a Protocol for Handling Allegations of Serious Misconduct, including sexual abuse. Building on work that started in the diocese in the 1990s, the Committee's mandate includes reviewing safeguarding policies and protocols; making recommendations about needed updates; and providing feedback on present cases as needed. Beginning early this year, the Committee began discussions about an "Historical Case Review" board, that would act independently of the Bishop's Office and Catholic Pastoral Center, and would carry out a review of records related to past and present clergy and employees who have faced allegations of serious misconduct, including allegations of sexual abuse. The new "Historical Case Review" board is currently engaged in this work.

Regarding the question of making public a list of clergy and lay employees "who have credible allegations of sexual abuse against them," our discussion of this action hinges on the need to care for survivors of abuse, and on safeguarding against any future abuse. There are different issues among survivors, some of whom are concerned about personal privacy and being re-traumatized by the publication of names. The diocese of Saskatoon continues to invite victims to come forward, and is working to determine what actions will best further that invitation. In the event of a police investigation, the diocese of Saskatoon cooperates fully with police, and would not in any way interfere with police or court decisions about disclosure of names of accused abusers. Court convictions are also a matter of public record.

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,  
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.