

Kid porn charge laid

Man who worked as Toronto youth counsellor had child pornography on his computer, cops allege

By Jonathan Jenkins, Toronto Sun

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He was counselling local teens while storing pornographic films and pictures involving children on his computer, Toronto Police alleged yesterday.

Now investigators have released Robert Fedoruk's picture in an effort to find out more about his background.

"The reason we are releasing the name and the photograph ... is to encourage members of the community who may have had contact with him to contact our office," Det.-Const. Scott Purches said.

"We have reason to believe he was a youth worker in the Toronto area. We're working closely with the youth centre. We're looking into his history and his past."

COMPUTER SEIZED

Purches said as far as police know, Fedoruk was involved with counselling children aged 12 to 17 years old.

He alleged kids in that age range and younger were in the pictures and videos on the computer police seized.

At this point, though, he noted the only charge against Fedoruk is one count of possessing child porn and police have no evidence he was making or distributing illegal material.

Fedoruk had worked at the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre for at least 15 years, Andrew Reesor-McDowell, the centre's director of centralized services, said.

"We were informed (Monday) by the Toronto Police Service that one of our staff at the city residential treatment program had been arrested for the possession of child pornography," Reesor-McDowell said.

"Consistent with our standard procedures regarding serious allegations, the staff member has been suspended. At this time there's no indication that any of the youth in our program were involved in any way with the staff member's alleged activities."

CENTRE CO-OPERATING

The centre is co-operating with police in any way they can, Reesor-McDowell said.

The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre is a charitable, non-profit organization that offers children's mental health services at two locations on Jarvis St. and another on Sheppard Ave. W.

Sun sources say the investigation began when a computer was dropped off for repair. The technician then called police over the weekend and the Child Exploitation Unit became involved.

Police got search warrants for a home and a computer on Monday, Purches said.

Fedoruk, 51, is to appear in court tomorrow.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police.