

For immediate diffusion

Adoption and Fostering of Children Residing in Quebec
A Guide for Gays and Lesbians

MONTREAL – April 6, 2008 – The Lesbian Mothers Association, The Papa-Daddy Group and the LGBT Family Coalition are proud to announce the launching of a guide in French and English on the adoption and fostering of children living in Quebec.

The guide, written in collaboration with the *Association des centres jeunesse du Québec*, is destined for lesbian and gay future adoptive and foster parents with a view to answering some of their questions and concerns. It will also be of use to social workers and psychologists working with gays and lesbians hoping to adopt—those who are already knocking on the door of youth protection agencies in Québec and those who will be doing so, more and more often, in the future.

In June 2002 the Law on civil union and new rules of filiation passed unanimously in the National Assembly, giving gays and lesbians full couple and parental rights. In the community, more and more gay and lesbian Quebec couples began considering the possibility of conjointly adopting children living in Quebec.

An increasing number of professionals working in the social services are becoming aware of the large body of research, spanning more than 30 years, on the well being of the children of gays and lesbians, which shows that they fare just as well as those of heterosexual parents. Although many of the youth centres in Quebec have still not seen “out” gays and lesbians pass through their doors, in an increasing number of regions applications are beginning to be made.

The guide, available on line and advertised throughout Quebec’s youth centres, includes a historical overview; definitions; information about the children, their biological parents and about youth protection, legal information and explanations of the adoption and fostering processes, as well as interviews with gay and lesbian parents who have adopted and/or fostered children.

About the community organizations involved in this project: Founded in 1998, the **Lesbian Mothers Association of Quebec (LMA)** is a bilingual group of lesbian mothers and mothers-to-be providing community, exchanging information, sharing resources and having fun together with our children. During its ten years of existence, the LMA has greatly contributed to the recognition of LGBT families in Quebec. **The Papa-Daddy Group** was launched in 2005. It is a bilingual group for gay, bi and trans men who are actively parenting, as well as those who are looking to become parents. In 2007 these two groups came together to form the **LGBT Family Coalition of Quebec (*Coalition des familles homoparentales*)** to further the social recognition of families with LGBT parents and to favour their integration in Quebec society.

Download the guide online at <http://www.aml-lma.org>

What: A guide about the adoption and fostering of children residing in Quebec destined for the gay and lesbian community as well as professionals in the social services working with these families.

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