



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XI - No. II – December 2009

Adoptive Parents Aren't Second Best

*By Robert Leckey
Professor of family law at McGill University*

This week, Quebec's Minister of Justice, Kathleen Weil, tabled a draft bill proposing (among other things) sweeping changes to the province's adoption law. The minister framed the changes as a progressive response to societal changes.

The proposals are complex and call for careful study during the consultations by the National Assembly. A key feature of the draft bill is a distinction between “open” and “simple” adoptions. Intentionally or not, the proposal for simple adoptions marks a serious departure from Quebec's established family law and advances a conservative view of family.

In open adoptions, adoption would still cut the legal tie between children and their birth parents, replacing them with the new adoptive parents. But the adoptive parents could sign an agreement allowing for continuing contact between the birth parents and the child.

Open adoptions reject the traditional model of confidentiality and secrecy that mattered much more when society stigmatized children born out of wedlock as illegitimate. Many children adopted today have been in child or youth protection. These kids know their birth families. They know that they're being adopted, so the secrecy of the old closed model can't apply.

The proposal for open adoption requires an examination of its potential to undermine the adoptive parents' relationship with their child. But at least it responds directly to the minister's concern about social changes.

The more troubling proposal is the option of simple adoption. Simple adoption would give a child a new adoptive parent or parents, who would assume the primary responsibility for caring for the child. But it would also preserve the legal bond connecting the child to his or her birth parents and birth family. The minister suggests that this model would be especially suitable for children placed in child protection.

What's the rationale for this idea? It's not the practical reality that many children being adopted already know about their birth families and wish to keep contact with them. Open adoption deals with that. Simple adoption aims at something else.

This proposal risks undermining the idea of adoption. When birth parents can't or won't care for a child, adoption provides new parents and establishes the child in a new family. Since the first adoption law 90 years ago, adoption has created new bonds of filiation or legal parentage. It gives the child a new identity.

By focusing on the genetic tie, the call to recognize simple adoption undermines the established legitimacy of adoption as a source of new, fully equal family ties. It implies that adoptive parents are second best. Simple

adoption suggests that, while it's fine for a new adult or adults to take on legal and financial responsibility for a neglected child, filiation and family belonging are matters of blood.

The minister's proposal departs from an idea that has underpinned Quebec's family law since the legislature abolished illegitimacy 30 years ago: All children whose legal parentage is established are equal.

The proposal's timing is unfortunate. A major change to the practice of adoption in Quebec in recent years is the increase in international adoptions. These adoptions are usually interracial, matching children with adoptive parents who are visibly different from them in ethnic origin. Another recent change is the opening of adoption to same-sex couples. There, too, a child is obviously not the offspring of both adopting adults.

Quebec's current law views the children of interracial adoption and of adoption by same-sex couples as equal to any other children. It assumes that their adoptive families give such children a wholly valid identity.

Calling for simple adoption shores up the importance of genetic connection over bonds of adoption. Might it not hint that those adoptive parents increasingly prevalent in recent years are never true parents?

The minister justified her proposals as "responses to an incredible change in Quebec society" and societal changes across North America. The irony is that the most troubling proposal comes from elsewhere.

Open adoption comes most obviously from Ontario. It has been the law in the province since 2006. But simple adoption, which sustains the child's tie to the birth family, comes from France.

Whatever the cultural and historical ties with France, Quebec has not followed the conservatism of French family law for decades. On the rights of married women, illegitimate children and same-sex couples, Quebec has repeatedly adapted its law to changing social practice without bothering about French debates. Why turn back now?

Ms. Weil says her proposals recognize that there is no longer a single model of family and that diverse families present diverse needs. But the minister's emphasis on genetic connection actually reinforces a single family model.

There's truer diversity in our current law that, whether by birth or adoption, parents are equally parents.

Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to info@familleshomoparentales.org or by post to CFH, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8

News Briefs: September - November 2009

Montreal-Quebec News

October 7th, 2009 - Quebec Justice Minister Kathleen Weil is proposing a series of sweeping changes to adoption rules in the province, including provisions that would allow children to be adopted without severing ties to their biological parents (see cover article). According to the draft bill tabled in the Quebec national assembly, children would be able to keep both the family name of their birth parents and their adoptive parents. While the adoptive parents would have official legal responsibility for the child, the biological parents would still retain some legal obligations, Weil said.

The proposal is a reaction to changes to Quebec's Youth Protection Act that went into effect in 2007, which

put pressure on the province's Youth Protection Centres to find adoptive parents for foster children, the minister said.

"It gives [a child] more rights and stability," Weil explained, because it provides a solution for children who still want to have a link with their birth parents.

The bill also introduces the option of open adoptions, which allow birth parents to sign an agreement that would ensure them the right to communicate with their child following the adoption. The agreement would have the force of law (see cover article for more information on the proposed legislation).

"These are all responses to an incredible change in Quebec society," as well as societal changes across North America, Weil said. "All kinds of different family patterns."

The draft bill also contains confidentiality provisions that would allow children to access their biological parents' medical records without necessarily obtaining their identities. Weil is proposing that those records only be accessible to children adopted after the law has been passed.

"We're being prudent with what we're proposing," Weil said. "But we'll see how people react to that."

The proposals stem from recommendations made in 2007 by a group of experts chaired by Sherbrooke University law professor Carmen Lavallée. A legislative committee will study the draft bill early next year. The LGBT Family Coalition submitted a brief to the government on November 20th. We will present our brief in Quebec City in January 2010.

Gay Marriage News

Interactive gay marriage chronology: For the last decade, the battle over same-sex marriage and other rights for gay couples has been hard fought in U.S. courts and legislatures and at the ballot box. Use this map to view milestones in the fight and how state laws have changed since 2000.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-gmtimeline-fl,0,5345296.html#story>

October 1 (Duxbury, Vermont) After 17 years together, Bill Slimback and Bob Sullivan couldn't wait another minute to get married. So they didn't. With Vermont's new law allowing same-sex marriage only a minute old, they tied the knot in a midnight ceremony at a rustic lodge, becoming one of the first couples to legally wed under the new law.

Vermont is one of five states that now allow same-sex couples to marry. Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Iowa are the others.

October 1 (Stowe, Vermont) Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream store in Vermont renames its popular ice cream flavour Chubby Hubby to "Hubby Hubby" in order to celebrate equal marriage in Vermont. Sadly, the flavor is only available in in that state. Anyone up for a road trip?

October 6 (Moscow) A Moscow court rules against two lesbians seeking to become **Russia's** first legally married gay couple. Irina Fedotova-Fet and Irina Shipitko said the Tverskoi District Court upheld a decision by the city's civil registry that said Russian law defined marriage as between a woman and a man. Nikolai Alexeyev, a longtime Russian gay rights activist who is serving as the women's lawyer, told reporters that they plan to fight the ruling.

October 7 (Washington) A bill that would allow same-sex couples to marry in the nation's capital is introduced. The bill is nearly certain to pass the D.C. city council, but whether it becomes law is more complicated because Congress gets an opportunity to review D.C. legislation before it takes effect. Still, even challengers in Congress acknowledge the bill is likely to become law.

October 23 - A Russian lesbian couple Irina Fedotova-Fet, 30, and Irina Shipitko, 32, marries in **Toronto**. Early in the month the couple attempted to marry in Moscow. "We want recognition of our relationship by society and the state. We are a family already, we live together and share household chores," Shipitko said. "We also would like to have children. That is why we want legal recognition of our union."

The two women will return to Russia, to try to force the country to recognize their marriage. Although homosexuality was decriminalized in Russia in the 1990s, many Russians are still opposed to gay rights.

October 29 (Buenos Aires, Argentina) Is Argentina ready to become Latin America's first nation to legalize gay marriage? Gay and lesbian activists think so – and they have a growing number of supporters in Congress, which opened debate on whether to change dozens of laws that define marriage as a union between a "man and woman."

"We now have the social and political context necessary to change the law," said Maria Rachid, president of Argentina's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Federation. It remains to be seen whether they have enough votes to overcome opposition from religious groups. The Roman Catholic Church remains a driving force in Argentina, where presidents were required to be both married and Catholic until a 1994 reform.

Argentina's capital established its gay-friendly reputation in 2002 by becoming the first Latin American city to legalize same-sex civil unions. Four other Argentine cities later did the same, and such unions also now are recognized in Mexico City and some Mexican and Brazilian states. Uruguay alone has legalized civil unions nationwide.

November 4 (Portland, Maine) Voters repeal the state's same sex marriage law after an emotionally charged campaign that drew large numbers to the polls and focused national attention on Maine. The campaign to overturn Maine's same-sex marriage law won with 53 percent of the vote vs. 47 percent opposed to Question 1.

International News

September 15 (AFP) (Montevideo, Uruguay) Uruguay seemed to be clearing the way for gay couples to adopt children. But a closer reading of an adoptions law promoted by Uruguay's gay rights groups suggests it might not enable adoptions by gay and lesbian couples after all. With the law awaiting President Tabare Vazquez's signature, gay rights groups have been celebrating the prospect that Uruguay could become the first country in Latin America to give gay and lesbian couples the opportunity to adopt.

But nowhere in the law does it specifically say that homosexual couples have a right to adopt. And in some places, it suggests otherwise — for example by specifying how the child should take a mother and father's surnames. Lawyers, judges and even the law's own authors now have doubts about how the law will be applied. Under Vazquez, Uruguay already legalized gay civil unions and ended a ban on homosexuals in the military, despite strong disapproval from the Roman Catholic Church.

The church also campaigned against the adoptions law, which shifts much of the decision-making to the national Institute of Children and Adolescents, and away from a system in which individual lawyers, notaries

and religious groups had a central role. The new law would drop a requirement that children can only be adopted by legally married couples or single parents.

Deputy Margarita Percovich, who wrote the law, acknowledged that it doesn't directly mention same-sex adoptions, but said it would enable them because gays and lesbians already can legally form civil unions, and "the law enables couples in civil unions to adopt children without impediment."

But Attorney Juan A. Ramirez, an expert in civil rights law, told the leading newspaper El Pais that judges still won't be able to approve same-sex adoptions, because this intent isn't explicitly described in the law.

Family judge Estrella Perez said the judges association now plans to meet "to see how to resolve these doubts." And a lawyer for the institute, Edgard Marzarini, told reporters that he doesn't know how to resolve a same-sex adoption given the law's requirement that a child take a mother and father's surnames: "These are the holes that later give us problems."

September 24 (LA Times)(Bangkok) More than a quarter-century after scientists discovered the virus that causes AIDS, researchers have finally shown that an experimental vaccine can block at least some infections, marking the first small but significant step toward eventual control of this lethal pandemic.

The benefits of the vaccine were modest, only a 31% reduction in the number of new infections. But coming on the heels of previous vaccine studies that either showed no benefit at all or actually increased the risk of contracting the disease, the study buoys the hopes of researchers who had nearly given up on ever finding an effective way to block the spread of the virus.

The results were released overnight in Bangkok, Thailand, where the research was conducted by a team including Thai researchers, the U.S. Army and the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

"This is a historic day in the 26-year quest to develop an AIDS vaccine," Dr. Alan Bernstein, executive director of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, who was not involved in the research, said in a statement.

"We now have evidence that it is possible to reduce the risk of HIV infection with a vaccine," said Mitchell Warren, executive director of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, in his own statement. "There is little doubt that this finding will energize and redirect the AIDS vaccine field as all of us begin the hard work to translate this landmark result into true public health benefit."

Experts said that it will be many more years before a vaccine is available for wider use, but the results indicate at last that such a vaccine may, indeed, be possible. "It gives me cautious optimism," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which helped fund the study.

At least 33 million people worldwide are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS, and 25 million have died, according to the World Health Organization. An estimated 7,500 are infected each day.

October 11 (AP) Washington— Rainbow flags fluttered above the crowds near the White House as tens of thousands of gay rights supporters rallied to demand that President Barack Obama keep his promises to end discrimination against gays and also let them serve openly in the military.

"Hey, Obama, let mama marry mama" some chanted. Others cried out, "We're out, we're proud, we won't back down."

Some taking part in the National Equality March woke up energized by Obama's promise to end the ban on

gays serving openly in the military. He made that pledge in a speech to the Human Rights Campaign, nation's largest gay rights group.

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said that Congress will need to muster the resolve to change the "don't ask, don't tell policy" — a change that the military may be ready for. "I think it has to be done in the right way, which is to get a buy-in from the military, which I think is now possible," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

During a rally at the Capitol, keynote speaker Julian Bond — chairman of the NAACP — linked the gay rights struggle to the Civil Rights movement, saying gays and lesbians should be free from discrimination. "Black people of all people should not oppose equality, and that is what marriage is all about," he said. "We have a lot of real and serious problems in this country, and same-sex marriage is not one of them.

For Lt. Dan Choi, the day began with a jog around Washington's memorials, calling cadence at 8 a.m. with fellow veterans and supporters before joining the march. A West Point graduate and Iraq war veteran, Choi is facing discharge under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for revealing in March that he is gay. He appeared later at a rally in his Army uniform, a piece of black tape over his mouth. "Many of us have been discharged from the service because we told the truth," he said.

October 15 2009 (*The Australian*) A homosexual couple in **Australia** has been granted leave to appear before the Family Court in a bid to gain access to a girl who isn't biologically related to either of them. The men, who cannot be named, have successfully argued that they are important people in the life of the three-year-old. The girl, who likewise cannot be named, was not conceived with sperm from either of the men. But her mother was, until last year, in a same-sex relationship with another woman who does have a child conceived with one of the men's sperm.

It is believed to be the first time the Family Court has agreed to hear an application by two gay men for access to a child to whom they have no biological connection. This also means the girl's biological mother will have to fight for sole parental responsibility of her own child.

The men told the court they were involved in the parenting of both children. They attended the mother's 12-week pregnancy scan, and visited the hospital on the day of the child's birth. All four adults also attended annual gay pride parades, marching in the "family" section. The men were introduced as "daddy" to friends and family, and were listed as emergency contacts at the child's daycare centre.

The mother has been restrained from moving to NSW until the matter returns to the Family Court in Brisbane, probably next month.

The child has been living with the four adults in three separate households since March.

October 23 2009 (*AP*) (**Washington**) Physical attacks on people based on their sexual orientation will join the list of federal hate crimes in a major expansion of the civil rights-era law Congress approved and sent to President Barack Obama.

A priority of the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. that had been on the congressional agenda for a decade, the measure expands current law to include crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. The measure is named for Matthew Shepard, the gay Wyoming college student murdered 11 years ago.

Hate crimes law enacted after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968 centered on crimes based on race, color, religion or national origin.

The expansion has long been sought by civil rights and gay rights groups. Conservatives have opposed it, arguing that it creates a special class of victims. They also have been concerned that it could silence clergymen or others opposed to homosexuality on religious or philosophical grounds.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights group, hailed the bill as "our nation's first major piece of civil rights legislation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Too many in our community have been devastated by hate violence."

October 27 (AFP) Kampala — If **Uganda's** recently tabled Anti-Homosexuality Bill becomes law it would mark a major setback in the promotion of human rights. "If adopted, a bill further criminalising homosexuality would constitute a significant step backwards for the protection of human rights in Uganda," said the US embassy's public affairs officer Joann Lockard.

"We urge states to take all necessary measures to ensure that sexual orientation or gender identity may under no circumstances be the basis for criminal penalties, in particular executions, arrests, or detention."

Addressing journalists, Ugandan Ethics Minister James Nsaba Buturo said the country had no intention of heeding the advice of foreigners on the issue of homosexuality. "They have come to me in great numbers and we are discussing it diplomatically but we are also telling them to mind their own business. They have no mandate whatsoever to come and say: 'Your values are wrong, mine are right'," he said.

Buturo balked at the notion that the proposed bill -- which, among other things, would criminalise any public discussion of homosexuality and could penalise an individual who knowingly rented property to a homosexual -- constituted a human rights violation. "We are really getting tired of this phrase human rights. It is being abused. Anything goes, and if you are challenged? 'Oh, it's my right'," the minister snapped. "Anal sex? Human rights. Robbery? Human rights. All sort of nonsense? Human rights," an exasperated Buturo went on.

Homosexuality -- or "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" as it is currently described in existing laws -- is already illegal in Uganda and can be punished with life imprisonment.

October 27 AP (NewsBreak) London — The International Olympic Committee will convene a special conference of medical experts to draw up guidelines for dealing with "ambiguous" gender cases in the wake of South African runner Caster Semenya's sex-test controversy.

IOC medical commission chairman Arne Ljungqvist told the *Associated Press* that his panel will organize a symposium in Florida in January to look at gender issues and advise sports bodies how to respond. "Sometimes you come across cases that are uncertain and ambiguous, and it changes from being a sports matter to a medical matter," Ljungqvist said. "That's where we need to have a review."

The move comes amid intense international scrutiny on Semenya, the 18-year-old athlete who won the women's 800 meters at the world championships in Berlin in August. The International Association of Athletics Federations is reviewing gender test results to determine whether Semenya is eligible to compete as a woman. The IAAF has refused to confirm or deny Australian media reports that the tests indicate Semenya has both male and female sex organs.

Ljungqvist said the IOC would have reviewed gender issues in any case, as 10 years have passed since the committee did away with mandatory gender testing at the Olympics. But he said the Semenya case has pushed the IOC to move now. "When the Semenya case came up with all the publicity around her, and her integrity was violated, we felt perhaps it is time to review and make clearer guidelines of what to do in those

ambiguous cases," the Swedish official said in a telephone interview. "The timing is appropriate."

October 30 2009 (365Gay.com) **Washington** - President Barack Obama has signed an extension of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS bill. The legislation provides care, treatment and support services to nearly half a million people, most of whom are low-income.

Obama also announced that the Department of Health and Human services has finally crafted a new regulation spelling the end to the HIV Travel and Immigration Ban. The regulation goes into effect in January. "We often speak as if AIDS is going on somewhere else. Often overlooked is that we face a serious HIV/AIDS epidemic of our own," Obama said prior to the signing. He noted that early on, AIDS was considered a "gay disease, and those who had it were viewed with suspicion."

This is the fourth re-authorization of the Ryan White bill, and Obama said it was the first time that the bill was not controversial or divisive, and passed with bi-partisan support. There are 1.1 million living with HIV/AIDS in the United States; more than 56,000 cases are added each year. Obama noted that gay men, though they comprise 2 to 3 percent of the population, make up about half of all new cases, and that African-Americans make up almost half. Obama said he hoped the lifting of the travel ban would help end the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS. He also said that he and his wife Michelle would be getting a second AIDS test soon. For 22 years, United States had one of the most restrictive policies on the immigration and travel of HIV-positive people in the world.

Miscellaneous News

International Gay and lesbian Association Publication: **LESBIAN MOVEMENTS: RUPTURES & ALLIANCES**. Lesbians have always been present in various civil society movements, with gay men's organizations, in feminist groups, as well as in the artistic sphere and in the fight for decolonization and independence of their country. In recent decades lesbians have been present in the fight for equal rights for women of colour, aboriginal women, and more broadly with feminist movements.

The present publication, in English, is a collection of experiences from individuals worldwide involved in lesbian movements, civil society and human rights organizations. Credit was given to those lesbians* in many parts of the world who have led the way and those who are actively involved in fighting for the wellbeing and recognition of their rights.

To view the document on-line:

http://www.ilga.org/news_results.asp?LanguageID=1&FileID=1269&FileCategory=1&ZoneID=7

September 22, 2009 - (Washington, D.C.) A majority – 51 percent – of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers continue to hide their identity from most or all co-workers, according to a new report released today from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation that examines the real-life experiences of LGBT workers.

The report, "Degrees of Equality: A National Study Examining Workplace Climate for LGBT Employees," found that, despite significant advances in employment policies at major U.S. corporations, a majority of LGBT workers continue to experience a range of negative consequences because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Younger workers are even more likely to hide their LGBT identity – only 5 percent of LGBT employees ages 18 to 24 say they are totally open at work, compared to more than 20 percent in older age cohorts.

The report is available for download at www.DegreesOfEquality.org.

September 29, 2009 (Cologne, Germany)– The city of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, has been chosen by the Federation Gay Games (FGG) to host the 2014 Gay Games. The announcement by the FGG comes after a year-long site selection process that culminated in formal presentations by bidding cities to the FGG Membership Assembly meeting this week in Cologne, Germany, site of the 2010 Gay Games. Boston, Mass., and Washington, D.C., were the other two finalists.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition UPCOMING MEETINGS

DECEMBER 2009:

☐ **Saturday December 12th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

MONTREAL: FOR ALL ADULTS AND KIDS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY: ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY

THE LGBT Family Coalition invites you to our annual holiday party! There will be lots of activities and crafts for kids and adults alike. For lunch please bring along something good to share with others. You can bring anything you like in the categories of either **salad, main dish, dessert or beverage (e.g. juice or soft-drinks)**. Please do not to bring anything with peanuts onto the premises because of allergies.

Location: Centre Communautaire des gais, lesbiennes, Bisexuel(le)s, Transsexuel(le)s et Transgenres de Montréal. (CCGLM) 2075, rue Plessis (metro Beaudry or Papineau)

☐ **Saturday December 19th from 1 p.m. – 4p.m.**

QUEBEC: HOLIDAY PARTY

THE LGBT Family Coalition (Quebec City branch) invites you to our annual holiday party! Abracadaclown show! Visit from Santa and many other surprises! To reserve, please contact: famillesquebec@gmail.com

January 2010:

☐ **Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.**

PART 3: DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAMILIES (FOR WOMEN)

Lesbian-mother families come in all shapes and sizes. Come and meet up with mothers from all different kinds of families (adoptive, pregnant through a fertility clinic, pregnant with known donor, both women carried a child, etc.). An open session where you can ask questions directly to those who are living the reality.

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-2901

Continued on the next page>>>>>

FEBRUARY 2010:

□ **Thursday February 18 at 7:00 p.m**

PART 4: PARENTING COURSE: THE ROLLER COASTER! (FOR WOMEN)

Whether you are adopting or trying to get pregnant there is a lot of frustration and stress around starting a family. Monthly cycles of trying to get pregnant or dealing with the DPJ that is losing your dossier. Come and vent with us and share the wisdom of those who have been through the process.

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-2901

MARCH 2010:

□ **A WEEKEND DAY IN MARCH 2010 (date and place to be determined)**

BABY-PROOFING YOUR HOME + BASIC INFANT AND CHILD CPR (FOR MEN AND WOMEN)

A class given by Bebesecure to learn how to babyproof, prevent injuries and respond to a sudden emergency when a child stops breathing or their heart stops beating, such as choking, drowning, falls, allergic reactions, etc. for infants - 8 years. Given by a certified CPR instructor. PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FORM FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

BULLETIN BOARD:

♦ **Femmes Entre Nous (Saguenay).** L'Association lesbienne vous invite à ses soirées le premier et le troisième mercredis du mois, de 19h à 21h au **CLSC situé au 411 Hotel Dieu à Chicoutimi**. Ces rencontres ont comme but de briser l'isolement et s'adressent aux femmes lesbiennes qui désirent socialiser en compagnie d'autres femmes lesbiennes, afin de permettre un échange positif. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer! Pour plus d'information, veuillez contacter **Nathalie au 418-550-2259**♦

♦ **Dorshei Emet B'nei Mitzvah Program:** Do you have children entering grade 6? We offer a meaningful program in which children discover the relevance of their Jewish heritage. Dorshei Emet is a welcoming Synagogue to individuals and families of all backgrounds, and to interfaith and LGBTQ families. **514-486-9400 (Alys Geiger)**, www.dorshei-emet, or drop in anytime to Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10h00 to 12h15, and stay for a light lunch and meet some of the members!

♦ **Le Centre des femmes de Rivière-des-Prairies! 514-648-1030** - Nous sommes ouvertes aux lesbiennes! Si vous avez besoin de plus d'informations vous pouvez consulter notre site web : www.cdfrdp.qc.ca ainsi que le site de notre regroupement : www.rcentres.qc.ca/propos.html

♦ **L'Écho des femmes de la Petite Patrie** est un centre de femmes qui offre des rencontres pour lesbiennes. Ces rencontres ont lieu les lundis soirs aux deux semaines de 19h00 à 21h30, et sont animées par une personne ressource. Ces rencontres, qui se veulent un lieu d'échange, de ressourcement et d'information, s'intéressent aux réalités et aux conditions de vie des lesbiennes. Les rencontres sont en français. Un service de halte-garderie est disponible avec réservation faite une semaine à l'avance. Le centre est situé au **6032 St-Hubert (métro Beaubien)**. Téléphone (514)277-7445, télécopieur (514)277-1689

MISCELLANEOUS

♦ **Traducteurs, rédacteurs, etc.:** Nous sommes à la recherche de bénévoles pour la traduction française de ce bulletin. Toute contribution (même à raison d'une page ou deux par mois) est la bienvenue. Si vous êtes disponible, veuillez nous contacter : info@familleshomoparentales.org

♦ **Batshaw Youth and Family Centres** is encouraging English speaking and bilingual gay and lesbian couples, and singles, to consider becoming **foster parents**. There are babies, pre-schoolers and older children who are waiting for a foster home. For some the plan will be to help them return to their families. For other children, the plan will be to work toward **adoption**. What a remarkable feeling it is to know you have made a difference in the life of a child by providing a stable, safe and loving environment. For more information, please call, **Rena Rubin, Foster Care Recruiter, at 932-7161, local 416, or send an e-mail to rena_rubin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca**

♦ The **Open Book Library's** collection includes over 5500 books written by LGBT authors or by authors who write about our communities. Some of these books are for children and adolescents. We are very proud that approximately half of our collection is in French. Much more information as well as online consultation of the book collection is available at our Web site www.ccglm.org/en-b. We are located at **2075 Plessis (CCGLM)** in the Village. Come visit us! Open Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-8 p.m. (514) 528-8424.

The bulletin board is a free forum for members to communicate amongst each other. If you want to post an announcement in the next issue please send it to us at any time to info@familleshomoparentales.org or by post to CFH, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8. If you have something to advertise, sell, rent or buy...anything where money must change hands, you can place an ad in the newsletter. Ads cost 20 cents per word.

♦ **THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT FINANCIAL FREEDOM - LA LIBERTÉ PERSONNELLE PASSE PAR LA LIBERTÉ FINANCIÈRE.** Financial services for individuals and small businesses: budgeting, debt management, investments, future planning, personal taxes, wealth enhancement strategies. 20% of all subsequent fees will be donated to the CFH. **J. Freed, (514) 489-8633, www.jfreed.ca**

♦ We're putting the "real" in real estate! We don't have big hair and Gucci shoes, just a down-to-earth knowledge of the market. We know how important the right home is to your family. If you're thinking of buying or selling a house or condo anywhere in the city, we can help. **Mary Lamey (514-978-6522) and Amy Barratt (514-718-6522), affiliated real estate agents and proud lesbian mums.**

♦ Photographe professionnelle pour mariages, maternité, portraits, familles. Membre de la CFH. Contactez-moi pour plus de renseignements. **Marie-Andrée Boivin 514-273-9658 marieandreeboivin@yahoo.ca** www.maphotographe.com

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