



Coalition des familles homoparentales

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An important project

*By Mona Greenbaum
Director, LGBT Family Coalition*

Does homophobia still exist in Quebec? Given that many of us live within circles of friends, family, neighbours and colleagues who are so accepting of us, we tend to forget that it does.

But ask your kids or other children around you. Or walk past the average schoolyard in Quebec. Better yet, ask a teen or pre-teen what the general attitude about homosexuality is at their school and amongst their peers. In most cases, being a LGBT youth in Quebec is still a heavy burden to carry. Quebec has one of the highest suicide rates in the western world and a significant proportion of these suicides are related to issues of homophobia. Witness the latest story in the news regarding the disappearance of 14-year-old David Fortin from Saguenay who was the target of relentless homophobic bullying. Do you remember being in high school? Well, for the current generation of youth in 2009, things haven't changed that much, despite all the legal advances we've made.

Having an LGBT family member can pose difficulties as well. Many of our children have witnessed or experienced homophobia and because of this are often secretive about their families. LGBT adults, as well, can face a variety of problems. Homophobia in the workplace still happens, sometimes overt, sometimes subtle and insidious. And yes, the LGBT community has particular healthcare issues beyond those related to HIV and AIDS that can be related to the effects of homophobia.

For these reasons, I'd like to bring your attention to what I think might be the most important project brewing these days in our community: A Research Chair in Sexual Diversity based at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

A research chair is a university-based research centre that looks at a subject that is not covered in traditional departments in the university. A good example would be UQAM's Raoul Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies. A chair, by definition, is multi-disciplinary and would be able to attract exceptional researchers from a number of different domains and universities, both from within Quebec and internationally. The chair would occupy an actual physical space within the university with its own infrastructure, organization, employees and policies. Harvard University just recently developed a research chair on LGBT issues. It is the first in the world. UQAM's will most likely be the second.

All very interesting but it sounds a bit "ivory tower," no? How can a research chair help us? It's a bit of a hard sell: Research? Academia? Haven't we had enough? We've been studied *ad nauseum*... please read on.

Well, first off, let me tell you about how collaboration with UQAM has already helped us over the years. UQAM has been there for us in the courts and in front of ethics committees to convince people to allow us to

adopt children and to conceive with the help of fertility clinics. Researchers have been in the House of Commons and the National Assembly when it came to same-sex marriage and family rights. In fact, the newspaper *Le Devoir* cited the presentation of Dr Danielle Julien of UQAM, in the National Assembly, as being one of the most important factors that influenced the adoption of the laws that recognized our families. Finally for our most recent project "*Regards sur les familles homoparentales*" our Coalition partnered with UQAM to apply for funds from the Ministry of Education to fight homophobia in the schools (see attached flier for more details on this project). A research chair can continue and enhance this partnership.

Dr. Line Chamberland has been chosen as the future chairholder ("titulaire"). In my mind Line represents a perfect combination of a brilliant academic and experienced, feet-on-the-ground, feminist lesbian activist. Line is a professor in the Department of Sexology and has been an activist since the 1970's. In the 1980's, she became the first person in Quebec to do a doctoral thesis on a homosexual subject. Line has done much research on homophobia in the workplace and is currently carrying out a large study on homophobia in Quebec's high schools. Her mantras for the research chair are "inclusiveness" and "community involvement". By "inclusiveness" Line underscores that the community is not solely made up of white, middle class people living in large urban centres; that bisexual and transsexual people are part of our community; and that men and women should be equally represented. By "community involvement" she means an active and democratic process of collaboration and consultation with the LGBT community. The point is to carry out projects that are in response to specific needs of the community and of society in general. Line's vision regarding the community resonates well at UQAM which is well known as a university with strong ties to the community.

Here's what a research chair can offer to us:

1. **Knowledge Transfer.** The results of research will be disseminated to the target communities and to the public in general. Conferences, colloquia and guest speakers are planned.
2. **A collaborative research process.** An administrative board made up of professors, major donors and community members will have input as to the type of research to be carried out. A public consultation process will also be held to assess community needs.
3. **Project partnerships.** The experience of community members partnered with the expertise of the university will be used to develop strategies and tools to benefit the community.
4. **A Public Voice in the Media.** A non-biased academic centre will respond, when needed, to important issues relating to our community.
5. **Public Sensitization.** The chair's work will give public visibility to the unique experiences and issues of our community.
6. **A Permanent Structure.** Research on LGBT issues can continue to be carried out in a coordinated manner and will not be dependent on a single researcher or research grant.
7. **Professional Training.** Students' bursaries as well as the development of teaching tools will help to train the next generation of professionals working with our families.
8. **A documentation centre.** Relevant publications will be made available to those working in the field whether academic or community-based workers.

The necessary first steps of this project have already been accomplished. Now a 5-year plan for the research chair must be established and approved by a scientific committee and then...the bottom line...a certain amount of money raised. Ah, the catch: \$100,000/ year for the next 5 years, to cover salaries, office expenses, fees for publications and conferences, and other fees related to research projects, student funds etc. The hope is that at least half of it will come from private donors. The rest, they expect, will come from public funds.

So once again (sigh) I am asking you to give and to give generously. Donors will receive a tax receipt. Every dollar counts and can be seen as an investment for our children and our community. Please see the enclosed form if you are interested in donating. Donors will be invited to a cocktail at UQAM where they can meet Line Chamberland and hear more about the new Research Chair in Sexual Diversity.

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: June - August 2009

Canadian News

June 25th, 2009 - A lobby group called Canadian Donor Conception Coalition (CDCC) has formed in support of a lawsuit filed by sperm and egg donor offspring in Canada. The CDCC is an organization comprised of donor-conceived offspring, parents, health care professionals, gamete donors and other interested persons. With the launch of their website <http://www.canadiandonoroffspring.ca/>, the CDCC hopes to raise awareness of the legal and ethical issues surrounding assisted human reproduction and to raise money to cover the significant legal costs of the lawsuit.

The lawsuit filed by Olivia Pratten on October 28, 2008 claims that the present law discriminates against persons who were conceived as a result of gamete donation. By contrast, adopted children have, by law, certain legal rights and opportunities to know about their biological parents that children conceived by way of gamete donation simply do not enjoy. The lawsuit is based on the guarantees of equality and security of the person in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The lawsuit seeks the immediate and ultimately the permanent protection and preservation of all files related to the practice of gamete donation in the province of British Columbia. Currently all information from health to identifying information about the gamete donor, can be destroyed at whim by the practicing physician after six years. One woman included in the suit already had her files destroyed.

Gay Marriage News

May 26, 2009 - The **California** Supreme Court issues its ruling in the Prop 8 case. The Court upheld Prop 8 while maintaining the marriages performed last year.

In November 2008 voters in the American presidential election were also asked to vote on questions of gay rights in a number of states. By voting in favour of Proposition 8, a majority of Californian voters chose to ban same-sex marriage, months after it was legalized by the state's top court. California's legal approval had seen thousands of gay couples wed there since May 2008.

"By upholding Prop 8, an initiative that stripped the right to marry from same-sex couples in California, the Court's decision has undermined the central principle that all people are entitled to equal rights and has jeopardized every minority group in California. No minority group should have to defend its right to equality at the ballot, and the Court should not have permitted such a travesty of justice to stand," said Kate Kendell, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. NCLR was one of the organizations arguing before the court for the overturn of the ban.

"Today, the California Supreme Court diminished its legacy as a champion of equality," Kendell said.

July 30, 2009 - (Tirana, Albania) Albania's governing Democrats have proposed a law allowing same-sex civil weddings in the small, predominantly Muslim country. The former Communist Balkan state, which joined NATO in April, has applied to be considered for joining the European Union.

International News

THE BARACK CORNER Now with the Obama administration finally in Washington after eight years of Republican government, there are many expectations and much optimism amongst LGBT people in America and throughout the world. Although changes are slowly happening, many LGBT Americans are feeling frustrated. This section will attempt to briefly cover some of the highs and lows of what's going on in the States.

☺ **June 2, 2009:** Amid the post-Prop 8 turmoil (see above) Obama declares June **LGBT Pride month** and honours the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, an event that many consider to be the birth of the gay rights movement. Although his speech is moving, many people are becoming impatient for real action from his new administration. NB: Pride month was first officially recognized in June 2000 by then-president Bill Clinton.

☺ **June 3, 2009:** The Senate Judiciary Committee holds its first-ever Congressional hearing on obstacles faced by lesbian and gay couples under U.S. immigration law. President Obama has said he supports the legislation.

The **Uniting Families Act (UFAA)** would modify immigration policy to end discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans who want to sponsor their permanent partners for residency in the United States. Such couples are often separated, or torn apart, because current U.S. law does not allow for the same sponsorship rights for lesbian and gay citizens as for heterosexuals. "Every day, an estimated 36,000 binational couples, nearly half of whom are raising children, are facing separation, or already living separately, because our country refuses to treat them equally under the law," said Rachel B. Tiven, executive director of the organization Immigration Equality.

☹ **June 8, 2009 (Washington)** The Supreme Court agreed with the Obama administration and refused to review Pentagon policy barring **gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military**.

The court said it will not hear an appeal from former Army Capt. James Pietrangelo II, who was dismissed under the "**don't ask, don't tell**" policy.

The federal appeals court in Boston earlier threw out a lawsuit filed by Pietrangelo and 11 other veterans. He was the only member of that group who asked the high court to rule that the Clinton-era policy is unconstitutional.

During last year's campaign, President Barack Obama indicated he supported the eventual repeal of the policy, but he has made no specific move to do so since taking office in January. Meanwhile, the White House has said it won't stop gays and lesbians from being dismissed from the military.

☹ **June 15, 2009 (Los Angeles)** Gay rights groups expressed dismay with the Obama administration over its championing of the **Defense of Marriage Act**, a law the president pledged to try to repeal while on the campaign trail.

The government filed a motion to dismiss the case of Arthur Smelt and Christopher Hammer, who are challenging the 1996 federal act. The law prevents couples in states that recognize same-sex unions from securing Social Security spousal benefits, filing joint taxes and other federal rights of marriage.

“The president made very explicit and emphatic campaign promises that he opposes DOMA and would provide leadership calling on Congress to repeal it,” said Jennifer Pizer, marriage project director for Lambda Legal. “This brief is not consistent with that promise.”

Justice spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer said that the department is abiding by its standard practice of defending existing law and that the filing doesn’t mean Obama has changed his mind about wanting to see gay couples win federal recognition. “Until Congress passes legislation repealing the law, the administration will continue to defend the statute when it is challenged in the justice system,” Schmalzer said.

😊 **June 17, 2009 (Washington)** President Obama signed a memorandum extending some **federal benefits to same-sex partners of federal workers**. The measure *does not*, however, cover health care and retirement benefits.

“Many of our government’s hard-working and dedicated, patriotic public servants have long been denied basic rights that their colleagues enjoy, for one simple reason: The people they love are of the same sex,” Obama said at an Oval Office signing ceremony.

After what he described as a “long, thorough review,” Obama signed the measure that, among other things, grants employees’ same-sex partners access to a government insurance program that pays for long-term conditions, such as Alzheimer’s disease. They also would be allowed to take sick leave to care for a sick partner or non-biological child.

Still, Obama noted that by law, the government cannot grant gay couples the same range of benefits afforded to heterosexual couples. He said he supports the **Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act**, which would further extend benefits to gay couples.

😊 **June 29th (Washington)** The White House hosts a **reception for LGBT people to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots**.

“The event was a chance for the White House to recognize the accomplishments of LGBT Americans,” White House spokesman Shin Inouye said. Invited guests included families, volunteers and activists, and community leaders.

😊 **July 17, 2009 (Washington)** People attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender would receive federal protections under a Senate-approved measure that significantly expands the reach of **hate crimes law**. The Senate bill also would make it easier for federal prosecutors to step in when state or local authorities are unable or unwilling to pursue hate crimes.

“The Senate made a strong statement that hate crimes have no place in America,” Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said after the chamber voted to attach the legislation as an amendment to a \$680 billion defense spending bill expected to be completed in the following week.

The bill is named for Matthew Shepard, a gay Wyoming college student who was murdered in 1998. The FBI receives reports of nearly 8,000 hate crimes each year. Of those, about 15 percent are linked to sexual orientation, which ranks third after those involving race and religion.

☹ **July 22, 2009 (Washington)** The Senate passes several amendments that limit the extension of the **federal hate-crimes law** so that it will not be extended to include gender identity and sexual orientation protections.

☺ **July 27, 2009 (Washington)** The Senate Armed Services Committee will hold hearings on **Don't Ask, Don't Tell** - the first hearings to be held on gays in the military since 1993. The hearings come at the prompting of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) after she realized she would be unable to secure the votes needed for an amendment to the Military Reauthorization Act which would instruct the Department of Defense to stop investigating service members for being gay.

☺ **August 5, 2009 (Washington)** An inclusive **Employment Non-Discrimination Act** is now on the move in the U.S. Senate. Currently in 29 states, there is no law to prevent an employer from firing someone because he or she is gay and, in 38 states, no law to prohibit an employer from firing someone for being transgender.

July 2, 2009 (New Delhi, India) The High Court of Delhi has ruled in Naz Foundation (India) Trust v. Government of NCT Delhi and Others that Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is unconstitutional. The judgment reinterprets the law that criminalized same sex relations. Section 377 carried a penalty of up to 10 years to life in prison and a fine. The Court declared that this law no longer applies to consensual sexual acts of adults because it violates Articles 21 (protection of life and personal liberty), 14 (equality before law) and 15 (prohibition of discrimination) of the Indian Constitution.

Enacted in the 1860s during British colonial rule to criminalize non-procreative sex, specifically sex between men, Section 377 has been used by police and other individuals to entrap, harass and blackmail those with non-conforming sexual orientations and gender identities and human rights defenders. This law has encouraged sexual and physical abuse of gay men and transgender people in police custody. While the text is silent on lesbianism, it has facilitated an environment where family violence against lesbians and bisexual women happens with impunity, leading to women's injury, death, and suicide. The Court's decision to change this law helps ease the environment of fear in which countless LGBT people live their lives in Delhi.

Although the judgment is limited to Delhi, it is widely anticipated by LGBT activists in India that similar challenges will be brought in other cities, hoping courts will favorably reference the Delhi decision. The Delhi High Court, along with the Mumbai (Bombay) and Chennai (Madras) High Courts, usually leads other High Courts in India when it comes to legal trends.

July 14, 2009 (New York) The *International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission* (IGLHRC) condemns the **Lithuanian** Parliament's adoption of the homophobic "Law on the Protection of Minors Against Detrimental Effect of Public Information". The new law outlaws the distribution of information about sexual orientation through any medium to which children have access.

"Lithuania has taken a huge step backward for human rights by enacting this law," said Cary Alan Johnson, Executive Director of IGLHRC. "Not only does it stifle the free expression of all people, but it could actively prevent children from getting a comprehensive and accurate sexual education, which is vital to their health and lives."

The new law prohibits information relating to lesbian, gay and bisexual people from being distributed to the public and may prevent the discussion of these issues in schools. It codifies discrimination based on sexual orientation, while also denying freedom of expression and inhibiting children's rights to education, information, health, and life under international and European law.

Parliament first passed the new law on June 16, 2009. On July 26, the Lithuanian President rejected the legislation, referring it back to Parliament for reconsideration. However, the bill was finally approved by an 87-6 vote, with 25 abstentions. It will enter into force in March 2010.

Lithuania decriminalized homosexuality in 1993, but has a recent history of banning gay pride events.

Miscellaneous News

You may find the following fact sheet, just released by the American Fertility Association, helpful. Although geared to parents via egg donation, most of the information it contains also applies to sperm donation as well.

'Talking with Children about Ovum Donation'

http://www.theafa.org/library/article/talking_with_children_about_ovum_donation_2009

NB. Many of the books for parents & children listed in the article's bibliography are available through the Infertility Network. For details, see: http://www.InfertilityNetwork.org/dc_talking_to_children

News from the LGBT Family Coalition UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2009:

□ **Tuesday September 15th at 7 p.m.**

QUEBEC CITY MEETING: A PROJECT TO FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA IN THE SCHOOLS

A gathering for parents and future parents living in or around Quebec City. Last year the LGBT Family Coalition received a grant from the Ministry of Education to create a training session and resources to help teachers and other professionals who work with our families to become more inclusive and to fight against homophobia. Come find out more about this project. We will also discuss our needs and how we can create an active community of *familles homoparentales* in the *capitale nationale* region. (See the enclosed flier for more information)

Location: GRIS-Quebec: 363 rue De la Couronne, Québec www.grisquebec.org

□ **Saturday September 19th at 11 a.m.**

APPLE-PICKING DAY AT MONT ST-GRÉGOIRE

Come join us for apple-picking at the *Vergers et Cidrerie Denis Charbonneau*. Activities include a mini-farm, playground, orchard visits, cider sampling and tractor rides. **We'll meet in front of the restaurant (cabane à sucre in the spring), in the first parking lot.**

(For more information and directions please see enclosed flier).

OCTOBER 2009:

□ **Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m.**

PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: HOW TO FORM A FAMILY/ LEGAL QUESTIONS (FOR WOMEN)

So, you're in a couple or single and after a lot of reflection and possibly a lot of soul-searching, you've decided you want to have children. Great idea, but how? What are our rights and responsibilities as lesbian parents in Quebec? What are the rights of known and unknown donors? Do we need to write a donor contract if we are inseminating at home? What does a contract have to say? Does getting married give our children extra legal protection? Whose name goes onto the child's birth certificate? An open discussion to explore the legal (and social) aspects of our various choices.

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

□ **Wednesday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m.**

PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: PART 1: HOW TO FORM YOUR FAMILY (FOR MEN)

So, you're two guys or a single guy and after a lot of reflection and possibly a lot of soul-searching, you've decided you want to have children. Great idea, but how? Adoption, surrogacy, co-parenting... there are a few options out there. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? What questions should you be asking yourself? Do we need to be married? Does getting married give our children extra legal protection? Do we have to hide our sexual orientation to adopt? Whose name goes onto our child's birth certificate? Come and hear the testimonials of various parents having chosen different options to form their families, followed by an open discussion.

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

□ **Friday October 16th at 7 p.m.**

MONTREAL MEETING: A PROJECT TO FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA IN THE SCHOOLS

Last year the LGBT Family Coalition received a grant from the Ministry of Education to create a training session and resources to help teachers and other professionals who work with our families to become more inclusive and to fight against homophobia. The tools are now ready and we have 22 animators in Montreal and Quebec City who are beginning to carry out sessions in schools, daycares and social services throughout Quebec.

Come find out more about this project. We will also be showing clips from our documentary "Regards sur les familles homoparentales" that was filmed in 6 regions of Quebec and features children in familles homoparentales speaking about their experiences in primary school. Snacks and Drinks.

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

□ **Saturday October 31st from 1-4 p.m.**

PRE-HALLOWEEN PARTY(FOR ALL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS)

Kids and Adults: What to wear: A Halloween costume!

The theme is MONSTERS and CREEPY CREATURES! Come and join us for Halloween crafts, slime-making, pumpkin decorating, and snacks. If you can, please bring a snack to share (remember: no peanut products 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)

NOVEMBER 2009:

□ **Thursday November 5th at 7:00 p.m.**

PART 2: PARENTING COURSE: ADOPTING CHILDREN (FOR MEN AND WOMEN)

If you are considering adoption but do not know how it all works this could be the right meeting for you. At this meeting we'll talk about the children, their biological parents and about youth protection, legal information and explanations of the adoption and fostering processes, as well as real-life stories from gay and lesbian parents who have adopted and/or fostered children.

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

□ **Tuesday November 10th at 7:00 p.m.**

QUEBEC CITY MEETING: DISCUSSION GROUP FOR LGBT PARENTS AND FUTURE PARENTS

Discussion topic to be determined at the meeting on September 15th

Location: GRIS-Quebec: 363 rue De la Couronne, Québec www.grisquebec.org

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

♦ **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

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