



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XII - No. 1 – September 2010

When the Piggy Bank is Empty

*By Cécile Grunenwald
Administrator LGBT Family Coalition*

The LGBT Family Coalition's force is in its membership. Thanks to your support the group has become increasingly strong over the years and, because of this, society has become more accepting of our families. The Coalition is a well-known organization that has had an impact on many different fronts. We have been influential in issues as important as the opening up of fertility clinics to lesbians, and the laws about adoption by same-sex couples. These accomplishments have affected how we can create our families. Yes we've won these rights, but our successes are still fragile and there are other battles that need to be fought as well.

Damn faggot!

Homophobia persists in many different milieu; Have you read Jasmin Roy's new book « Osti de fif »? A child that is called faggot is stigmatized with all the tragic consequences that stigmatization implies. As for another child, a bystander – potentially our own child – it becomes clear that being gay is wrong. This child will be ashamed of his or her family and will choose to keep it a secret.

To fight against this situation the Coalition received a two-year grant from the Ministry of Education to create a training session and resource kit destined for teachers, daycare workers, CLSCs and DPJs. The project has been an incredible success and the demand for trainings is outstripping our capacity. We are now a group of 30 trainers carrying out workshops and distributing resource kits to fight against homophobia and reduce the stereotypes around LGBT families. But, victims of our own success, these trainings now require new funding which we are constantly seeking from the government.

A fountain of information

We also carry out workshops for future parents that look at issues around starting a family, from adoption to inseminations to surrogacy. Looking at the growing number of future parents enrolled each year, it seems that there is a real LGBT baby boom going on! That's incredible and we will continue to provide these services to future parents. But here again funding is needed! The grants that we receive barely cover our expenses.

We disseminate information through the media, in conferences and in consultations, regarding the rights and responsibilities of LGBT parents. Our strength is, of course, dependant on our visibility.

We also continue to carry out all kinds of family activities, because knowing other families that are living the same reality is essential! For us and especially, for our children.

Money talks

Maybe I'm insisting a bit too much? There's a lot of work, a lot of needs, the number of LGBT families is growing. And with these growing numbers we need a bigger budget to keep up to speed. Last year our budget was in deficit and we still need an office, a full-time employee, and a budget to carry out all our trainings and workshops at the same rate while covering all our everyday expenses.

That's why this year we are at a turning point. We need to put emphasis on our sources of funding in order to assure that our group can continue flourishing. That's also why we raised the membership fee.

We're also looking for partners in the Quebec and Canadian business world. We have many ideas of how this can be developed, notably through our web site. But before we can go ahead with these plans we need to assure that we have enough money for our everyday functioning. And to help out with this each family can contribute through the membership fee, by a donation every now and then for those who can afford to, and with your individual talents (graphic design, translation, etc). All help is welcome!

From "I have a dream" to "Yes we can"

When we look back at all the changes that have occurred for the LGBT community over the past decade, it's obvious that our actions have paid off and that it's worth it to work toward the recognition of our families. Even if some of our dreams will take years to materialize, we won't give up.

And of course we are counting on you to help us fulfill our goals. Because in many ways we are pioneers, whether we are doing this work for our children or for society in general. And because a little optimism multiplied by a thousand families can go a long way!

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 2010

Montreal-Quebec News

July 13 2010 - Infertile couples in Quebec will now be able to access government-funded in vitro fertilization treatments (IVF), a first in North America.

Couples who have not been able to conceive naturally will be eligible for three free rounds of treatment as of Aug. 5, said Quebec Health Minister Yves Bolduc. The province becomes the first jurisdiction on the continent to offer subsidized IVF treatments, which are a costly and last-ditch option for couples with problems conceiving.

Quebec's government hopes to see the number of IVF pregnancies double in coming years as a result of the policy, Bolduc said at a news conference at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital. An average of 3,500 IVF pregnancies are recorded in the province every year.

Treatments covered by the Quebec government include:

- Egg harvesting.
- In vitro fertilization.
- Pre-implant genetic testing.
- Embryo transfer.
- Sperm sample collection.

A single IVF treatment in a private clinic can cost up to \$15,000. The Quebec fertility program will cost an estimated \$35 million per year, with expenses rising to about \$63 million in four years.

Services will be offered across the province, split evenly between public and private clinics. Doctors in individual clinics will define how they will prioritise waiting lists. There will be a transition phase for those already in treatment. For now, only Montreal and Quebec City will offer subsidized in vitro treatments.

Canada News

May 19, 2010 - Toronto - Brian Burke, the general manager for the Toronto Maple Leafs, was the main speaker when Egale Canada, the country's national gay and lesbian political rights organization, launched a new site. Called MyGSA.ca, the web address serves as an information center for Canadian teachers and their gay and lesbian students. Burke talked about his son Brendan; the young man, a senior at Miami University and advocate for gay rights, died in an early February car accident. Before his untimely death, father and son were profiled on the Sports Network (ESPN). The story focused on a young gay man and the support he received from his father, family, and the Maple Leafs organization.

The elder Burke wants to continue the good work his son started. This means making sure gay and lesbian students can attend school without harassment.

Burke is convinced there are closeted players in the NHL, but fear keeps them from stepping out. Sports have long been viewed as inhospitable to gay men. The number of North American male professional team athletes who have come out can be counted on one hand, and none have done so before retirement.

June 11, 2010 - Ottawa - For once the 3 opposition parties and the government were able to find common ground, and adopt a modified version of C-11, the proposed amendments to Canada's refugee claims process. The compromise allows all claimants access to an appeal in case of refusal.

In May, the LGBT Family Coalition, along with the Quebec Women's Federation, appeared before the Citizenship and Immigration Committee to express serious concerns over the proposed amendments. These changes would have had negative implications for LGBTQ applicants, especially those who suffered persecution in ostensibly "safe" countries. With our encouragement, the Liberals pulled their support from these controversial amendments, leading to a compromise bill which provides more safeguards for LGBTQ applicants.

According to the initial draft, claimants from the so-called "safe-countries" – designated by the minister – would not have had the right to appeal should their claim for refugee status be rejected. That clause was eliminated. In fact the concept of safe countries was modified as well. Although a list will exist, it will be established with independent experts and after consultation with the United Nations.

July 19, 2010 - Victoria, B.C. - Attorney General Michael de Jong, has announced the launch of a white paper containing draft legislation and policy proposals in family law.

The provincial government proposes to modernize and improve the legislation to reflect changes in attitudes towards parenting arrangements, and in how families and the justice system resolve family law issues. Amongst the proposed changes is the legal recognition of multi-parent families, in particular those having a common parental project (i.e. where 3 or 4 adults decide together to start a family). If this aspect of the bill passes, B.C. will be the first jurisdiction in the world to recognize multi-parent families through its laws.

Public consultations will take place this fall.

Gay Marriage News

June 7 (Lisbon, Portugal) A lesbian couple marries in Portugal's first same-sex ceremony since the predominantly Catholic country introduced a law allowing gay marriage.

Teresa Pires and Helena Paixao, divorced Portuguese mothers in their 30s who have been together since 2003, marry in a 15-minute ceremony at a Lisbon registry office. The ceremony comes less than a month after Portugal's conservative president ratified a gay marriage law passed by Parliament in January. His approval made Portugal the sixth in Europe to let same-sex couples wed.

June 15 (Berlin) A Berlin court declines to set a precedent by recognizing a gay marriage performed in Canada, ruling that the union would only be considered a civil partnership in **Germany**. German law defines marriage as exclusively between men and women. It allows civil partnerships between same-sex couples.

Andreas Boettcher, a 37-year-old German event manager, married his Spanish partner, a dancer and choreographer, in Montreal in July 2006. He asked a Berlin administrative court to recognize the relationship as a marriage after local authorities listed him as "single" on his registration card in November, despite his Canadian marriage certificate and a family registry entry from Spain that names him as the husband of his partner.

The German court said a same-sex marriage abroad is to be legally considered a civil partnership in Germany.

June 25 (Brussels) The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that countries are not obliged to allow gay marriage, rejecting a bid by an Austrian couple to force the state to let them wed. The court says the rights of Horst Michael Schalk and Johann Franz Kopf had not been violated by their inability to get married. In Austria, same-sex couples can enter into legally recognized partnerships, similar to marriage but different in some ways.

A panel of seven judges ruled unanimously that the couple was not covered by the guarantee of the right to marry in Europe's human rights convention. The judges said there was "an emerging European consensus towards legal recognition of same-sex couples," but left it to individual states to decide what form that should take.

July 15 (Buenos Aires) Argentina legalizes same-sex marriage, becoming the first country in Latin America to grant gays and lesbians all the legal rights, responsibilities and protections that marriage brings to heterosexual couples.

The approval comes despite a concerted campaign by the Roman Catholic Church and evangelical groups, which drew 60,000 people to march on Congress and urged parents in churches and schools to work against passage. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio said "everyone loses" with gay marriage, and "children need to have the right to be raised and educated by a father and a mother."

August 4 (California) A federal judge in **San Francisco** decides that gays and lesbians have a constitutional right to marry, striking down Prop 8, the voter approved ballot measure that banned same-sex unions.

U.S. District Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker said Proposition 8, passed by voters in November 2008, violated the federal constitutional rights of gays and lesbians to marry the partners of their choice. His ruling is expected to be appealed to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and then up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

August 11 - (Mexico City) Mexico's Supreme Court rules that all 31 states must recognize same-sex marriages performed in the capital, though its decision does not force those states to begin marrying gay couples in their territory.

International News

June 1 2010 (Associated Press) (Moscow) Two Gay Pride parades were held without arrests in Moscow, the first time the notoriously intolerant **Russian** authorities have not intervened since the inaugural attempt to hold the event in the capital in 2006.

The activists' spokesman claimed that the absence of harassment, beatings and detentions was due to their "military planning" rather than any kind of warming toward non-traditional orientation among officials.

Moscow riot police typically disperse such gatherings with brute force, emboldened by declarations from city Mayor Yury Luzhkov equating homosexuals with the devil.

The activists also blame Russia's resurgent Orthodox Church, which publicly and sternly denounces gay culture, for fomenting homophobia.

About 25 activists held a short demonstration on the Arbat, a pedestrian street lined with shops and cafes that is one of Moscow's main tourist draws. They marched for about 10 minutes, holding banners and shouting slogans such as "No discrimination on the grounds of orientation." Some observers waved and laughed, and there were no signs of hostility.

Police did not try to disperse the march, but when the demonstrators saw a line of uniformed officers blocking the street ahead of them, they scattered.

A few hours later in northwestern Moscow a smaller, international group including British activist Peter Tatchell unveiled a long rainbow flag and chanted "Russia without homophobes!" and "Equal rights, no compromise!"

June 1 2010 (365 Gay.com) (Blantyre, Malawi) A couple from Malawi have kept out of the public eye after being pardoned and freed from prison, in what a relative said was a deliberate decision prompted by the conservative view of homosexuality in the southern African country.

Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza were released hours after President Bingu wa Mutharika pardoned them without condition. But in giving his pardon, which he said was on "humanitarian grounds only," Mutharika warned that homosexuality remains illegal in the conservative southern African country.

Activists said that they were searching for a safe house for the couple, fearing they could be attacked upon release. The couple's lawyer, Mauya Msuku, said he had not seen either of them since their release.

Malawi had faced international condemnation for the conviction and harsh sentence given to the couple, who were arrested in December, a day after celebrating their engagement.

Malawi is among 37 African countries with anti-gay laws, and strong attitudes against homosexuality.

A judge convicted and sentenced Chimbalanga and Monjeza earlier on charges of unnatural acts and gross indecency under colonial-era laws. Crowds of Malawians had heckled the two during court hearings, with some saying that 14 years at hard labor – the harshest possible sentence – was not long enough.

Their release was welcomed by the U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, international rights groups and the White House. In Washington, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs praised the move, urging an end to "the persecution and criminalization" of sexual orientation and gender identity.

June 7 2010 (Associated Press) (Sao Paulo) Millions of gays and lesbians jammed several of Sao Paulo's main avenues for the 14th annual gay pride parade in South America's largest city.

Dancing to music blasting from sound trucks, they condemned homophobia and demanded equal rights. They also said they would push candidates in this year **Brazil's** presidential election to support their cause.

A river of gay men, lesbians, cross dressers and even heterosexual couples flowed down skyscraper-lined Avenida Paulista in what is billed as the world's biggest gay pride parade.

Organizers expected about 3.2 million people. Police have not provided a crowd estimate. The event has become a huge tourist draw.

July 8 2010 (Yagg.com) A court of appeal in **France** has recognized the legal filiation between a child and the female partner of her biological mother. The decision allows for the legal application on French soil, of a judgment rendered in the United States, in DeKalb County, that recognized the second mother as a legal parent.

"This decision opens the door for the recognition of other second-parent adoptions, regardless of the parent's gender," said Me Mécy, the couple's lawyer. "It challenges the lack of legislation in France, regarding second-parent adoption and repudiates the current laws which only allow adoption by couples that have been civilly united (pacsés). It also puts into question the fact that French homosexual couples are less well-treated than binational couples whose second-parent adoptions made in foreign jurisdictions are automatically recognized in France."

July 19 2010 (365 Gay.com) President of **Zimbabwe** Robert Mugabe said gay rights would not be included in the country's new constitution. "We say no to gay rights. We will not listen to those advocating for their rights in the new constitution," said Mugabe while addressing an Apostolic Church. Sex between two men is illegal in Zimbabwe.

The gay rights organization, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) warned that gays and lesbians are regularly harassed and driven underground in Zimbabwe. The group explained that while lesbianism is legal, people's understanding of women's sexuality puts lesbians at risk, too.

In May, a police raid and arrests were made at the offices of GALZ. The arrests occurred shortly before the opening of a national Constitutional Reform Outreach Program, through which GALZ was seeking to remove discriminatory provisions and secure constitutional protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. The context in which the raid and arrests occurred raises serious concerns that they were politically motivated.

"It is troubling-and ironic-that the government is persecuting people who are seeking to protect the rights of all Zimbabweans through the constitution," said Juliana Cano Nieto, researcher in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Program at *Human Rights Watch*. "This assault on the LGBT community threatens everyone in the country who is working for human rights."

The nation is in the process of drafting a new constitution in preparation for the next election. It comes after the disputed 2008 election resulted in a power-sharing deal between Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. Both men are openly homophobic; Mugabe has said that gay people are "worse than pigs and dogs."

July 19 2010 (Associated Press) (Warsaw, Poland) Thousands of gays and lesbians from around Europe marched through Poland's capital to demand equal rights and more tolerance in this heavily Roman Catholic nation.

The parade, part of the EuroPride gay rights festival, is meant to give a boost to the fledgling gay rights movement in Poland. Gay rights were strongly repressed during the communist era, and gays and lesbians

have struggled since communism fell 20 years ago for acceptance in a society still strongly influenced by the church.

"We feel like they are 20 years behind the Netherlands," said Ad Bakker, a 39-year-old from Holland who traveled to Warsaw to show solidarity with Polish friends. "But the atmosphere is good and we hope that EuroPride will help."

A Polish friend of his, Sebastian Blaszczyk, 36, said the situation in Poland "gets better and better every year," but the country still has far to go in accepting gays.

An initial police estimate put the number of participants at 8,000.

Miscellaneous News

June 22nd (SHEWIRED.com) The President of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is accusing McDonald's of hypocrisy after the French division of the corporation aired a gay-themed commercial in France.

"They were looking to portray themselves as an advocate or ally of the LGBT community, when it was completely counter to what their actions here in the U.S. were," said Justin Nelson, the president and co-founder of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). "It's completely hypocritical."

McDonald's was quick to reject Nelson's criticism.

"McDonald's has supported a variety of programs and initiatives. We have an employee network -- The McDonald's Gay, Lesbian & Allies Network," the company said.

The 45-second spot, only aired in France, hit the blogs and featured a father and son dining at one of the fast food restaurants. The teen is sitting at the table looking at a picture of his all-male class and speaking in French to a classmate on a cell phone, telling him he misses him. The son quickly hangs up the phone as his father approaches the table, giving the appearance that the son is still in the closet. The phrase "come as you are" flashes on screen as the ad wraps.

The NGLCC claims to be frustrated that the ad was broadcast, given McDonald's recent history with the NGLCC. McDonald's pulled support from the NGLCC after the American Family Association launched a boycott in 2008 of McDonald's franchises.

June 8 2010 (365 Gay.com) - A new study concludes that children raised by lesbian parents do fine socially, psychologically and academically and, in fact, may be better adjusted than children brought up in "traditional" families.

According to *US News and World Report* the 20-year study followed 78 pairs of lesbian mothers from their pregnancies and found that their children, now in their adolescence, "demonstrate healthy psychological adjustment."

When compared to peers, children of lesbian mothers were found to have "fewer social problems, and less aggressive and rule-breaking behaviors than other teens" – which is not what anti-gay activists would have predicted.

"One of the things that opponents of the equalities of gays and lesbians — in marriage, parenting, adoption and foster care — often bring up is the so-called gold standard of parenting, which defined by them is the traditional family where children are conceived in traditional ways and not through insemination or

surrogates,” said study author Dr. Nanette Gartrell. “But, when we compared the adolescents in our study to the so-called gold standard, we found the teens with lesbian mothers were actually doing better.”

The study attributes the healthier adjustment of these children to the commitment of their mothers. “The outcomes here were very clear. These are families in which the mothers were very committed, involved and loving,” said Gartrell.

Gartrell expects similar results among children of gay men – “another group of very committed parents.”

Gartrell’s findings were published in the July issue of Pediatrics:
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/peds.2009-3153v1>

News from the LGBT Family Coalition UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2010:

- **Saturday September 4th from 12-5 p.m.**
COMMUNITY DAY IN QUEBEC CITY: FÊTE ARC-EN-CIEL

Along with many other community organizations, we will have our own **information kiosk especially for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans parents and future parents**. We encourage you to join us there both to support our group and to find out about other community groups that may be of interest to you. Kiosks will be grouped on **St-Jean between Sutherland and Ste-Claire**. Food will be available on the site. (For other activities during the fête arc-en-ciel please see attached flier)

- **Tuesday September 21st at 7 p.m.**
CONFERENCE: THE IMPACT OF HOMOPHOBIA ON QUEBEC TEENAGERS
(For more information please see enclosed flier).
Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Metro Berri), Room DS-2901

- **Saturday September 25th at 11 a.m.**
APPLE-PICKING and ARBRASKA AT MONT ST-GRÉGOIRE

Come join us for apple-picking and Arbraska at the *Vergers et Cidrie Denis Charbonneau*. Activities at the orchard include a mini-farm, playground, orchard visits, cider sampling and tractor rides. Arbraska is an activity for children ages 5+ where they can swing from tree to tree with harnesses. Reservations for Arbraska need to be made in advance! **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 2010:

- **Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m.**
PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: 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 (Metro Berri), Room DS-2901

□ **Thursday, October 21st 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 (Metro Berri), Room DS-2901

□ **Saturday October 30th from 2-5 p.m.**

HALLOWEEN PARTY(FOR ALL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS) and DINNER IN CHINATOWN

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

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). Afterwards we can go for dinner together in Chinatown!

Location: Chinatown : 90, de la Gauchetière East, 1st floor (metro Place d'armes)

NOVEMBER 2010:

□ **Wednesday November 17th 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 (Metro Berri), Room DS-2901

□ **Tuesday November 30th at 7:00 p.m.**

CONFERENCE: A CRITICAL LOOK AT ASSISTED PROCREATION

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

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

BULLETIN BOARD:

◆ **La Marg'Elle** est un groupe pour femmes homosexuelles et bisexuelles affilié à la Maison des Femmes des Bois-Francis. Briser l'isolement, favoriser l'échange, l'identification et l'affirmation de soi.

Info: margelleboisfrancis@hotmail.com

www.lamargelle.spaces.live.com

819-758-3384

◆ **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.com, 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 Kid Scoop:** The all-in-one reference for kids activities. www.kidscoop.com

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.
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♦ 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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