



# Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XIII - No. II – December 2011

## Become an animator...to promote respect for diversity

*By Kévin Lavoie and Annie Caya  
LGBT Family Coalition*

Over the past 2 years the CFH has carried out about 120 training sessions for those who work with youth in schools and community organisations. We have sensitized close to 4000 professionals about the realities of our families and the negative impact that homophobia and heterosexism have on young people. At the end of our sessions we leave the participants with numerous tools and resources so that they can create environments that are open, safe, respectful of diversity and inclusive for all. Our work is funded by the Ministry of Education.

So far, about 20 animators, all members of the CFH, both parents and future parents, based in Montreal and Quebec City, have carried out this work. Now that our workshops have become so popular, we need to train new animators to meet the growing demand. In March 2012, we will begin training new groups in Montreal and Quebec City. The following are testimonies from two of our trainers :

*Kévin Lavoie, animator and development agent, LGBT Family Coalition:*

The LGBT Family Coalition came into my life three years ago, because of the *Fête Arc-en-ciel* in Québec City. In my work for GRIS-Québec, in charge of educational and information services, I organised the first-ever training session of *Regards sur les familles homoparentales* in the National Capital Region. Bringing together over 60 participants, the activity was a resounding success. On a professional level, as a social worker, the objectives and pedagogical tools presented in the context of the training, really impressed me. On a personal level the deconstruction of myths and stereotypes associated with same-sex parenting rekindled my desire to become a father. After that, I decided to become a trainer. As a future parent I want to help create safe and affirming environments for children.

Over the past years, I've animated a number of conferences across the province, in duo with dynamic and motivated trainers. During two trips that I made for my studies in social work, I even had the opportunity to present the training sessions in Belgium and France. In doing so, the Coalition has increased its sphere of influence and was also able to spread important knowledge to French speakers outside of Québec. I'm convinced that we are "making a difference" by sensitizing and providing resources to health and social service professionals and especially to those that work in the education sector. Our tools empower them to fight homophobia and heterosexism for the sake of all families. Because I enjoy doing these trainings, I know that I'll keep involved in the Coalition. Within the CFH I've met friendly and intelligent people, as well as an organisation that is dynamic and open to the initiatives of its members. Promoting respect for diversity, every step counts...

*Annie Caya, animator and promotion agent, LGBT Family Coalition:*

In 2005, when my partner and I decided to have a child, many questions and worries came up. The Coalition helped us forward. We learned about the research that has been done on our families and that made it easier for us to overcome our own concerns and preconceived ideas. One thing I learned from the future

parents workshops, is that parents, who are involved and at ease with their identity, can help their children's social integration.

I started to look at all the work that the Coalition had done over the years to help other couples like us, and to change society: the fight for same-sex marriage, the legal recognition of our families, the opening of fertility clinics, and the increasing social acceptance. It wasn't so long ago that women had to go to Ontario or the States for inseminations, or even to lie about being in a same-sex couple. Our society has opened up, more and more, because of the Coalition's work to legitimize our families and fight homophobia. And so I decided to join the group and help open people's minds and hearts.

One day I received an invitation to become a trainer for the Coalition. Being a good communicator, it didn't take much for me to jump at a challenge that was so close to my heart. Finally I could join the parade, rather than just watch it pass me by. For me, being a trainer for the Coalition is a way to change history.

Since then, I've been taught how to be a trainer. I've received advice and support all along the way. The first time I carried out a real training, in front of a group, of course I had stage fright, but Valérie, an excellent animator, was by my side and everything went really well. I was ready, well prepared and I knew my stuff! At the end of the conference I knew that doing this was made for me. That evening, I realised that I had touched people and changed something in them. I had planted a little seed that would grow. A seed that would help our families and help conquer homophobia.

As I did more conferences, I became more and more delighted to listen to the testimonies of the people that I was meeting. I remember the sparkling eyes or the thoughtful expressions. I was reaching out to people and giving them the means to confront the homophobia they were encountering. With each conference, I have the impression that I've changed the world a little bit, and perhaps I've grown a bit too because of the experience.

In the end, I feel like I'm helping Lauriane, our daughter, so that her life can be a little easier. I'm part of the parade now and proud of it.

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If you are interested in becoming an animator and fulfill the following criteria, please contact us and we will set up an interview with you:

1. You have experience with public-speaking and are an excellent communicator.
2. You are fluent in French (bilingualism is an asset, as well, as we sometimes do trainings in English).
3. You have a very flexible work schedule so that you are able to take off at least one full day a month for trainings.
4. You have excellent control of your emotions.
5. You are willing to travel, from time to time.
6. If you have children, the child-care in place is reliable
7. You are available to attend 4 obligatory practice sessions (3 hours each, on weeknights, over a period of 2-3 months) starting in March, 2012.

If this describes you, please contact us before January 15th, 2012

At [info@familleshomoparentales.org](mailto:info@familleshomoparentales.org) or at 514-846-1543

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

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## News Briefs: September - November 2011

### Quebec News

**October 11, 2011** - What are the values of a typical Quebec resident? According to a large survey carried out by *Leger Marketing*, for the firm *Hebdos Quebec*, the average *Quebecois* does not exist.

Thirty thousand Quebec residents were questioned for the second part of a vast survey called "Discover the True Face of Quebec". Quebec residents were most contradictory on questions about immigration. When asked if new immigrants posed a threat or were seen as potentially enriching for Quebec, 42% of Quebecers said immigrants were a threat, whereas 39% saw them as enriching to Quebec society. But the answers varied immensely from one region to another. For instance, 8% of Town of Mount Royal residents saw immigrants as menacing, while 60% of those living in the Laurentians feared immigration.

When questioned about homosexuality, 83% of Quebecers said that finding out that a friend was gay would have no impact on the friendship. But 14% said it would create unease.

The levels of discomfort with homosexuality were highest in regions such as Gaspé (26%), Lac-Mégantic (25%) and in Ville Saint-Laurent (25%). Surprisingly 17% of youth claimed that having a gay friend would make them feel uncomfortable, with 34% of youth in the Gaspé making this surprising assertion. Christian Bourque from *Leger Marketing* wonders if this is because youth define discomfort differently. "Do they mean just a slight discomfort or a moral discomfort," he asks?

**November 10, 2011** - David Testo, who played professional soccer for the *Montreal Impact*, came out of the closet saying he wished he had revealed his homosexuality sooner. "Living the life of a professional athlete and being gay is incredibly hard," Testo, 30, told CBC's French-language *Radio-Canada*. "It's like carrying around a secret, you know, and carrying around luggage and just never being allowed to be yourself."

Testo said his teammates were aware of his sexual orientation and were supportive. "I'm gay. I didn't choose this. This is just who I am," Testo told CBC. "I really do regret not having come out publicly earlier. It's something I struggled with my whole life and whole career."

Testo, a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, played for the *Impact* from 2007 until he was released last month. He was the team's MVP in 2009.

### Canada News

**September 22, 2011** - In the first week of the 41st session of Parliament, two Private Members' bills were introduced, both proposing explicit inclusion of transsexual and transgender people in the Canada Human Rights Act, and the hate crimes clauses of the Criminal Code of Canada. Both were inspired by Bill C-389, sponsored by the now-retired deputy Bill Siksay, which had been presented in the last session of Parliament earlier this year. Unfortunately the legislation died when the election was called.

The new Bill C-276 was introduced by Liberal MP Hedy Fry on Tuesday September 20th, 2011. A day later, the NDP's LGBT critic, Randall Garrison, introduced Bill C-279.

It is not unusual to have multiple Private Member's bills with similar wording or intent, since it is sometimes a bit of a lottery to get such a bill to progress to Second Reading. Garrison's position on the Order Paper (which determines which Private Member's bills proceed to Second Reading) is fairly high, and he expects that he could possibly see his bill advance in as little as six months from now.

**October 18, 2011** Jamie Hubley, a gay 15-year-old from Ottawa, Canada, committed suicide on October 14th. The 10th grade student documented his life, including his depression and the hardships of being a gay teen, in a blog, reports the *Ottawa Citizen*. The blog, called "You Can't Break... When You're Already Broken" featured posts with numerous references to and photos of self harm and cutting, pictures of guys kissing and mentions of wanting a boyfriend, and bleak, ominous messages like "Sometimes I wish the breeze would just take me with it," "The only thing worse than being hated is being ignored. At least when they hate you they treat you like you exist," and "Suicide is always an option."

His last post, paints a heartbreaking portrait of a boy looking for -- and ultimately unable to find -- acceptance. Hubley's father, Ottawa city councillor Allan Hubley, released a statement saying that his son was bullied in school and that his family believes it was a factor in his suicide. Discussing a "Rainbow Club" that Jamie tried to start at his high school to promote acceptance of others, Allan Hubley said, "The posters were torn down and he was called vicious names in the hallways and online... We will not say that the bullying was the only reason for James's decision to take his own life, but it was definitely a factor...We hope from our tragedy others will become more active in stopping this cruelty towards children."

## Gay Marriage News

**August 21** - About 80 lesbian couples tied the knot in **Taiwan's** biggest same-sex "wedding party" in a massive gesture that organisers said offered hope that the island will soon legalise gay marriage. Even though same-sex unions are not legal in Taiwan, the celebrations went on smoothly without police interference or protests.

Taiwan is becoming more open-minded towards its homosexual population, and the island's gay rights groups last year said they had hosted Asia's biggest gay pride parade, with a turnout of 30,000.

**August 22** – "Legalise Love," a movement to supporting gay marriage and adoption in **New Zealand**, is launched. As well as promoting the acceptance of non-heterosexual New Zealanders, "Legalise Love" will help Kiwis fight the legislative inequalities they face.

**September 7** - The **Argentinean** military has given permission to two male officers, a lieutenant colonel and a captain, to enter into a "marriage" under Argentina's new law permitting same-sex "matrimony," according to reports in the national media. It is a first in Argentina.

**October 27** - Chloe Avrillon and her wife Marie-Jeanne are challenging **France's** ban on same-sex marriage. The two have been together for fifteen years. In fact, they married back when Chloe was Wilfrid. Chloe Avrillon underwent sex reassignment, but she and her wife have remained together with their three children in the west of France. After the sex-change, though, their marriage was no longer officially recognized.

Avrillon presented her case to court officials in a closed-door hearing and will get a ruling sometime in the middle of December, according to her lawyer. Chloe told reporters that "We've been waiting for years for recognition of families like ours, which may be atypical but work well."

## International News

**August 17 (BBC News)** An **Australian** man who donated sperm to a lesbian couple has been told by a court that his name must be removed from the child's birth certificate. A court in Sydney ruled that the birth mother's former partner had the right to have her name on the certificate, even though the couple split in 2006.

The father had responded to a newspaper advertisement by a lesbian couple seeking help to conceive a child. A baby girl was born in 2001. The mother's partner said she wanted her name on the birth certificate to avoid "confusion with schools, hospitals and government departments".

Although he expressed sympathy with the man, Judge Stephen Walmsley said the sperm donor had no parental rights under Australian law. "As (the sperm donor) concedes, there was no agreement before the birth that he would be on the register when he agreed to donate his sperm".

**August 24th (IGLHRC)** The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has heard the case of Karen Atala Riffo, a judge and lesbian mother who was stripped of custody of her two daughters by the Supreme Court of **Chile** in 2003. The Court hearing was held in Bogotá, Colombia. Atala, who won in lower court decisions, lost custody of her children when the High Court ruled that she was an unfit mother on the basis of her sexual orientation. Atala sought justice through the Inter-American Human Rights System, which redresses human rights violations committed by states. The *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* subsequently reviewed the case and in early 2011 issued a decision in Atala's favor. Now the case has been heard by the *Inter-American Court of Human Rights*, which will issue a legally binding decision with which the government of Chile has agreed to abide. This case is the first time the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has ever heard a case specifically regarding sexual orientation or gender identity.

"What happened to Karen Atala represents discrimination of the crudest sort. For no reason other than her sexuality, a court separated a mother from her children. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights now has an opportunity to render a decision that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is wrong." Such a verdict will send a message to every state party to the American Convention on Human Rights -- from the village court all the way to national supreme courts -- that sexual orientation has no bearing on a parent's ability to raise healthy children," said Jessica Stern, Director of Programs for *IGLHRC*.

**September 7 (The Guardian)** Three **Iranian** men have been executed after being found guilty of charges related to homosexuality, according to a semi-official news agency.

The men, only identified by their initials, were hanged in the south-western city of Ahvaz, the capital of Iran's Khuzestan province. "The three convicts were sentenced to death based on the articles 108 and 110 of Iran's Islamic penal code, for acts against the sharia law and bad deeds," the Isna agency quoted a judiciary official in Khuzestan as saying.

*Iran Human Rights*, an independent NGO based in Norway, said the men were charged with "lavat" – sexual intercourse between two men. It is not clear whether the three men were homosexuals or merely accused of being gay. It is believed that the execution of the three men is the first time for many years that any Iranians have been given death sentences on the basis of their sexuality. In the past, Iran has executed convicts for homosexuality but they were typically simultaneously convicted of other charges that carried the death sentence, such as male rape.

"The executions for sodomy might be among the rare cases where the Iranian authorities admit to having executed men convicted of homosexual acts ... Iranian authorities normally present such cases as rape, but rape has not been mentioned in this case," said Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, a spokesman for *IHR*.

**September 20 (The Guardian)** An 18-year-old law that prevented serving **US** military personnel from disclosing that they were gay has been formally repealed. At one minute past midnight eastern time, the controversial *Don't ask, don't tell* (DADT) law was abolished after its repeal was signed into law some nine months ago. Introduced by President Clinton in 1993 as a compromise step to full equality, DADT allowed gay and lesbian members of the military to serve only if their sexuality remained secret or was not reported.

The *Servicemembers Legal Defence Network* estimates that since the law's introduction, 13,000 gay men and lesbians have been discharged after their sexual orientation was revealed. In some cases dismissals were made on the basis of testimony from jilted lovers or those with personal grievances.

Barack Obama had pledged to overturn DADT during his 2008 election campaign, but action on the issue appeared stalled until his January 2010 state of the union speech. Injecting fresh energy into the cause

Obama said: "This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are."

Polls have consistently shown that roughly two-thirds of Americans believe gay men and lesbians should be able to disclose their sexual orientation and serve openly.

**October 11 (ILGA news)** The **British** Prime Minister has vowed to get tough on African countries with poor records on gay rights by slashing millions of pounds from their aid payments. In a sign that Britain is no longer prepared to turn a blind eye to nations that victimize sections of society, David Cameron will tell African leaders they will receive funding "fines" if persecution of gays continues, the *Daily Mail* reports. The UK government has already taken steps against Malawi, cutting aid by \$30 million after two homosexuals who held an engagement ceremony were sentenced to 14 months hard labor. And payments could be cut further to the southern African nation, which has received \$312 million since 2008, if it proceeds with plans to bring in tough anti-lesbian laws.

Uganda (due to receive \$109 million this year) and Ghana (due \$56 million) could also face sanctions if they refuse to drop antiquated anti-gay laws. The possibility that these countries will see their aid slashed seems increasingly likely as Uganda has plans to punish same-sex couples with the death penalty, while Ghana's president has promised to "check the menace of homosexuality."

A UK government spokesman said it is committed "to combating violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in all circumstances, in this country and abroad." Reiterating Britain's threat of aid withdrawal, the spokesman added, "We only provide aid directly to governments when we are satisfied that they share our commitments to reduce poverty and respect human rights."

In October, the leaders of Britain's three main political parties pledged their support for a new London-based gay rights organization, called *Kaleidoscope*, hoping to modernize gay rights in former British colonies. The organization, which plans to leverage the UK's political clout by encouraging countries to revoke discriminatory legislation, was strongly backed by Prime Minister Cameron who said, "I want Britain to be a global beacon for reform."

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, however, African social justice activists launched a collective response to the British governments threat to "cut aid". "While the intention may well be to protect the rights of LGBTI people on the continent, the decision to cut aid disregards the role of the LGBTI and broader social justice movement on the continent and creates the real risk of a serious backlash against LGBTI people.

**November 3 (AFP)** A judge from the Bayonne region of France has awarded a civilly united (PACSée) lesbian couple, conjoint parental authority for the twins that were born to them this year. On October 26<sup>th</sup> the family court judge agreed to give Cécile J. and Marie-Catherine D., the right to both be recognized as the legal parents of the twins.

The judge noted that all signs pointed toward the quality of their couple relationship, the strength of their social and familial ties, and their capacity to care for and raise their children. The judge said, "It is in the best interest of the children to legally recognize the two adults that already care for them". The district attorney has one month to appeal the decision, but did not oppose the couple at the first level, so probably won't appeal. If the decision remains, it will become jurisprudence, explained their lawyer Me Collette Capdevielle.

"Jurisprudence is created to evolve along with society." In fact article 377 of the civil code allows for a delegation of parental authority when there are extenuating circumstances. However the appeals court rejected a similar request by another civilly united lesbian couple on July 8, 2010 stating that there were no extenuating circumstances in support of their request. Nevertheless a third separated lesbian couple won in 2009, with the separation itself deemed the requisite circumstance.

Me Capdevielle said that "a number of interpretations can be attached to the words 'extenuating circumstances'," and that there is enough leeway for judges to interpret the law in a variety of manners. She did suggest, however, that the law be rewritten to avoid conflicting jurisprudence.

**November 7 (Pridesource.com)** In a report released November 4th, four human rights organizations said Cameroonians are attacked by police, politicians, the media, and even their own communities if they are suspected of having sexual relations with a person of the same sex.

"The government should take urgent action to decriminalize such consensual conduct and to ensure the full human rights of all **Cameroonians**, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity," said *Alternatives-Cameroun, l'Association pour la defense des droits des homosexuels, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.*

The 62-page report, "Criminalizing Identities: Rights Abuses in Cameroon Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity," details how the government uses article 347 of the Penal Code to deny basic rights to people perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. The report documents arrests, beatings by the police, abuses in prison, and a homophobic atmosphere that encourages shunning and abuse in the community. The consequence is that people are not punished for a specific outlawed practice, but for a homosexual identity, the groups said. Those arrested are routinely held without charges in excess of the minimum time allowed by Cameroonian law, the groups found. Judges may sentence them to prison time without credible evidence that they engaged in a homosexual act. Even when judges have dismissed charges, prosecutors have sometimes charged the accused again before they could be freed.

Women suspected of having sex with women can be specifically targeted for rape and sexual attacks in their communities and risk losing custody of their children. They have little recourse to the law because of their fear of arrest and jail.

In the last six months, at least ten individuals in Yaoundé and Douala have been arrested under the law. One man, Jean-Claude Roger Mbede, was convicted and sentenced to three years' imprisonment on 28 April 2011. At least six others, arrested in July and August 2011, remain in custody, while three men were arrested and then released

## **News from the LGBT Family Coalition**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **DECEMBER 2011**

◆ **Sunday December 4th from 1 :30 – 5 p.m.**

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

**THE LGBT Family Coalition invites you to our annual holiday party! There will be a D.J., activities and crafts for kids and adults alike, and of course a visit from Santa.** For our buffet 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 Greene, 1090 Greene Ave (Metro Atwater). Greene Avenue is a few blocks west of Atwater. The centre is south of René Levesque / Dorchester.**

◆ Thursday December 8th from 5:00– 8 p.m.

**QUEBEC CITY: HOLIDAY PARTY**

GRIS-Quebec, GLBT-Quebec and the Quebec-City Branch of the LGBT Family Coalition invite you to a **Community Christmas Party!**

**Location: 363, de la Couronne - bureau 202, Quebec (Quebec)**

**To reserve, please contact Jeff Poulin at (418) 523-5572 or by e-mail: demystification@grisquebec.org**

**January 2012:**

◆ Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m.

**QUEBEC CITY: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS – PART 1: HOW TO FORM A FAMILY / LEGAL QUESTIONS**

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.**

**Location: Université Laval**

◆ Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m.

**MONTREAL: COURSE FOR FUTURE MOTHERS - PART 3: DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAMILIES (FOR WOMEN)**

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.**

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

◆ Thursday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m.

**GATINEAU: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS – PART 1: HOW TO FORM A FAMILY / LEGAL QUESTIONS**

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.**

**Location: Université du Québec en Outaouais**

◆ Sunday, January 29th at 9:30 a.m.

**PARENT-BABY ACTIVITY**

Parents of babies from 0-12 months are invited to share their experiences and come together to play with their babies. We can exchange on parents' roles, sharing household chores and the worries and joys of family life! Toys will be available and a snack will be served.

**If you're interested, please contact Émilie at 514-768-8537**

**Location: 2040, Alexandre de Sève, at the corner of Ontario Street.**

◆ Monday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m.

**MONTREAL: SPECIAL COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS – STARTING A FAMILY THROUGH SURROGACY**

Guest speaker : Joanne Wright: Director of Canadian Surrogacy Options and 4-time surrogate mother.

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.**

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

**FEBRUARY 2011:**

◆ Monday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m.

**QUEBEC CITY: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS – PART 2: ADOPTING CHILDREN**

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.**

**Location: Université Laval**

◆ Saturday, February 18th at 12:00 p.m.

**QUEBEC CITY: SUGAR SHACK (CABANE À SUCRE)**

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.**

◆ Saturday February 18th from 11 :00 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
**OUTAOUAIS: BRUNCH AND BAL DE NEIGE**  
PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

◆ Sunday February 19th from 10:30 a.m.  
**MONTREAL: SKATING PARTY AT THE LAVAL NATURE PARK**  
PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

◆ Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.  
**MONTREAL: COURSE FOR FUTURE MOTHERS - PART 4: THE ROLLER COASTER : BEFORE AND AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR CHILD!**  
PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.  
Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-2901

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#### 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](mailto:margelleboisfrancis@hotmail.com)

[www.lamargelle.spaces.live.com](http://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](http://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.cdfdrp.qc.ca](http://www.cdfdrp.qc.ca) ainsi que le site de notre regroupement : [www.rcentres.qc.ca/propos.html](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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**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](mailto: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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