



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XII - No. IV – June 2011

Faggot Wednesdays

*By Mona Greenbaum
Director LGBT Family Coalition*

A group of students in a Quebec school decided that Wednesdays would be designated “les mercredis fifs” (faggot Wednesdays). And so, on a weekly basis, certain students were singled out as the “fifs” of the school and were harassed and tormented throughout the day. Everyone else was under suspicion. Wearing the “wrong” clothes, speaking the “wrong” way, or even enjoying the “wrong” activity could get you in trouble and make you the next target. For some students this ritual was hilarious, for others: a living hell.

And yet when the teachers of this school were asked if there was any homophobia that they’d noticed in the school milieu, they all responded that everything seemed to be okay.

At the end of our half-day together, however, not only were the teachers of this region a bit more knowledgeable about families with gay and lesbian parents, but their eyes had also been opened about homophobia and the devastating effects that it has on all youth.

Since June 2009, the LGBT Family Coalition (*Coalition des familles homoparentales*) has been carrying out training sessions in schools, daycares, community centres, social services, universities and cegeps, to help those who work with youth and families understand a form of discrimination that often passes under the radar.

Homophobia is still poorly understood in Quebec. Either it is seen as an American problem or its impact is minimized, unless it has evolved to the point of physical violence. But research shows that homophobia is very much present in Quebec’s schools, despite all of our progressive laws, and that persistent psychological and verbal harassment can result in a loss of self-esteem, school drop-out, depression, drug and alcohol abuse and even suicide.

And yet for the most part, deplorably, none of Quebec’s universities systematically address this problem when future teachers are trained. Many still do not see the need, despite the fact that Quebec’s Ministry of Education (MELS) has designated homophobia as one of the major forms of violence in Quebec’s schools.

Homophobia starts early. Although children begin to use homophobic words in primary school, they don’t necessarily know what these words mean. But by the time they reach high school homophobic language is very much entrenched. These words become closely linked with a failure to conform to very rigid gender norms. The boy who excels in art and music but doesn’t like sports, or the girl who doesn’t want to wear certain kinds of clothes, can easily become the target of harassment.

Even with extremely young children there are many ways to promote diversity. Of course, because we are the *Coalition des familles homoparentales*, we encourage early discussions with students around the theme of family diversity (including, naturally, families with same-sex parents). For older children, themes such as couple relationships, discrimination, civil rights, etc can be addressed.

Our training is carried out by a duo of trainers, usually a man and a woman. We currently have about 20 active trainers based in Montreal and Quebec City who travel throughout Quebec. Although only a half-day session, we cover the scientific research on families with LGBT parents and on homophobia in the schools, we role-play about how to counteract homophobia and how to respond to parents or colleagues who are concerned about addressing the subject of homosexuality, and we spend the last part of our session looking at some of the tools that teachers and other professionals can use to promote diversity and fight homophobia amongst the youth in their school community.

Many professionals recognize that homophobia is a serious issue, but they are afraid to act because of a lack of training and an ignorance of the tools that exist. In our sessions, they are amazed at the amount of resources that are available. Not only has the Coalition created resources for those working with younger children, but we also point professionals toward a vast array of already-existing resources, from books and videos, to web sites, research articles and lesson plans that can help them to address the important issue of homophobia with youth of all ages.

As we approach our second anniversary we have trained about 3000 teachers, social workers, daycare providers, nurses, psychologists, principals, etc to better understand homophobia. And thanks to the financial assistance of MELS, *la Centrale des syndicats du Québec* and the Quebec Provincial Teachers' Association (QPAT) we have been able to provide them with a toolbox full of material to use with youth. We are proud of the fact that over a quarter of the people who have participated in our trainings are university students in the context of their courses in the Education department. They have clearly told us that our training should be made obligatory for all future teachers. We think so too!

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: March - May 2011

Montreal and Quebec News

March 27, 2010 – Writer/ actor/ talk-show-host, Jasmin Roy has advanced another step in his fight against bullying and violence in schools. Last year, his book “Osti de fif,” was a great success. The book is his memoir of being the victim of homophobic bullying for 5 years while at school. Then in November, his organization, *La Fondation Jasmin Roy* was launched to bring his message into Quebec’s schools. And now in the style of the “It Gets Better Project” (www.itgetsbetter.org) his web site profiles both the testimonies of well-known stars in Quebec and, most recently, testimonies by and about youth who have been bullied at school.

On the foundation’s web site (www.fondationjasminroy.com) there are a number of testimonies: David and Noemie speak of the verbal and physical violence they’ve endured, Joey an openly gay student speaks of the harassment that began when he changed schools, and Dylan, a transsexual youth, speaks of being attacked in the school bathroom. Parents, as well, testify to the horrors that their youth have experienced.

The organisation, which has become linked with the *Fédération québécoise des directions d'établissement d'enseignement* (FQDE), has as its goal to eradicate intimidation in Quebec’s schools. The FQDE is the professional order for school principals.

May 20, 2011 – Minister of Justice, Attorney General and minister responsible for the fight against homophobia, Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, has launched a 2011-2016 Action Plan against Homophobia.

“Even today we cannot deny that homophobia is present in our society. The plan that we are launching today will permit us to lend a strong hand to those who are fighting homophobia and working daily against prejudice”, declared Minister Fournier.

The plan is the result of a joint commitment by 11 provincial ministries. Its 60 measures aim to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgendered people on social, community and professional levels, as well as to increase knowledge about sexual diversity.

The Quebec government will invest 7.1 million dollars over the next 5 years, to put 60 measures into place with the help of its community, university, union and civil society partners.

Highlights include:

1. The establishment of a research chair on homophobia at the Université de Québec à Montréal (\$475 000 over the next 5 years).
2. Two large media campaigns against homophobia in 2012 and 2014 (2 million dollars over the next 5 years).
3. An increase in financial aid to community organizations that promote and defend the rights of LGBT people. (3.6 million dollars over the next 5 years).
4. The establishment of an anti-homophobia bureau (1 million dollars over the next 5 years). This bureau will assure that the action plan will be implemented throughout the various provincial ministries.

Canada News

March 25, 2011 (365Gay.com) Immigration Minister Jason Kenney announced that the Canadian government will work with the *Rainbow Refugee Committee* to support overseas refugees who are maltreated for being gay. Citizenship and Immigration Canada will donate \$10,000 to cover three months of income support and refugee needs when they arrive to Canada, according to the *Toronto Star*.

"These funds are a welcome first step in response to the crisis facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people around the globe at a time when 77 countries continue to criminalize homosexuality and five prescribe the death penalty," executive director of Egale Canada Helen Kennedy said in *The Star*.

Another part of the agreement requires that The Rainbow committee reach out to other private groups for additional sponsorship. Kenney said acquiring private sponsors is crucial for the sponsorship program's future, as the sponsors will provide financial aid for refugees during their first year in Canada.

April 14 2011 (*Montreal Gazette*) Nearly 100 fewer babies would die or suffer severe brain injury every year in Canada if tighter controls were placed on the largely unregulated field of artificial procreation, results of a new study by Canadian researchers suggest. The University of Montreal-led paper is raising fresh alarms over the "epidemic" of multiple births resulting from in vitro fertilization.

The researchers found that nearly one in five babies admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital over a two-year period were from multiple births resulting from artificial reproductive technologies. Among these 82 "ART" babies, 75 were twins or triplets whose mothers used IVF; the others were the result of ovarian stimulation, in which women inject themselves with powerful fertility drugs that stimulate their ovaries to churn out multiple mature eggs.

Twenty of the IVF babies were extremely premature, born after less than 29 weeks of gestation. Six died. Five babies developed severe bleeding in the brain — a complication that can lead to cerebral palsy and other lifelong consequences. Four developed a potentially blinding eye condition requiring surgery.

During IVF — in which eggs are retrieved from a woman, fertilized with sperm and the resulting embryos injected into the uterus — doctors routinely transfer two, three or more embryos at a time to maximize the chance that at least one will implant and a baby will be born. In the Montreal study, the number of embryos transferred ranged from two to six.

According to their calculations, a mandatory policy of single embryo transfer would prevent 30 to 40 infant deaths every year nationwide, 34 to 46 severe intracranial hemorrhages, 840 fewer babies admitted to intensive care and up to 42,488 fewer days of intensive care. Every day a baby stays in the NICU costs roughly \$1,000, meaning a policy of single embryo transfer could save the health system approximately \$40 million a year.

Quebec began funding up to three IVF treatment cycles for infertile couples last summer, with the proviso that just one embryo be transferred at a time in most cases. In the first three months of the new policy, only 3.8 per cent of IVF cycles resulted in twins — a fraction of the old rate of 27 per cent.

But the results of the study may underestimate the harm being done by assisted reproduction. Dr. Carl Laskin, president of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society — the professional body of Canada's fertility doctors — is concerned about the number of women undergoing "superovulation" with artificial insemination, a procedure that's more widespread and can be done in a doctor's office outside an IVF unit. Professional guidelines say that if more than three eggs are developing, the woman should be switched to IVF, so that doctors can control the number of embryos that are put back.

May 20 2011 (*CP*) — A woman born as a result of donor insemination has won her legal battle seeking to end anonymity for sperm and egg donors in British Columbia. Olivia Pratten was born in 1982 as a result of donor insemination. After fruitless efforts to obtain records about the sperm donor, Pratten launched the lawsuit against the provincial government, arguing that the province's adoption laws discriminated against donor offspring like herself because they don't allow them the same ability to learn their genetic roots as adopted children have.

B.C. Supreme Court Judge Elaine Adair agreed. She found sections of the B.C. Adoption Act and Adoption Regulations unconstitutional. The law was revised in 1996 to allow adopted children the right to information about their biological parents, but it does not include children born of reproductive donations.

Adoptive children and donor offspring are similar in their need to know and have a connection to their biological roots, the judge said. The ruling gives the B.C. government 15 months to amend the law to address donor offspring. Pratten's lawyer, Joseph Arvay, said the end result of the decision is that anonymous egg and sperm donation will no longer be permitted in B.C.

The ruling has no weight outside the province, but Pratten said she has been contacted by other donor offspring who have declared their intention to pursue similar legal action to force change elsewhere.

Gay Marriage News Timeline

February 23 (Washington) Attorney General Eric Holder announces that, at the urging of the President Barack Obama, as well as based upon Mr. Holder's own assessment, the Department of Justice will no longer defend Section 3 of DOMA (the Defense of Marriage Act)—the section that prohibits the federal government from recognizing legal marriages between same-sex couples.

The Attorney General also announces that the President and the Department of Justice agree that laws that discriminate based on a person's sexual orientation are invalid and should be subject to heightened judicial scrutiny, just like laws that discriminate based on sex, religion, national origin, and race.

February 24 (Honolulu) Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signs same-sex civil unions into law, calling it "a triumph for everyone" that gay and lesbian couples will have the same state rights as married partners. Civil unions would start Jan. 1, 2012, making Hawaii the seventh state to permit civil unions or similar legal recognitions for gay couples. Five other states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage.

March 5 (Southern China) Professor Li Yinhe, a long-standing advocate of gay rights and same-sex marriage in China, is asked to discuss same-sex marriage on the website *NetEase*. The site is one of the country's most popular and comprehensive news websites. One outcome of the discussion is an opinion piece by Li Tie, editor of southern China's influential *The Times Weekly*.

While the article reportedly acknowledges the right of gay men and lesbians to love and live together, Li Tie's statements soon veer off in an entirely different direction, saying, "The impacts of same-sex marriage include the 'domino effect' that it may bring upon the marriage system.

"Once same-sex marriage is legalized, it may lead to the debates on legalizing 'multi-partner marriage' and 'human-animal marriage'.

The article brings forth comments from both pro- and anti-gay readers. China only decriminalized homosexuality in 1997 and it remained classified as a mental illness until 2001.

March 10 (New York) The City of New York's Marriage Bureau takes steps to ensure that transgender people have equal access to marriage licenses. New transgender sensitivity trainings are implemented and a written policy is distributed to all staff in the wake of an incident in which an opposite sex transgender couple was denied a marriage license. The change is the result of a complaint lodged by the couple to the City Clerk's Office.

March 21 (Washington) Gay marriage support increases 17 percent in the *Washington Post/ABC News* poll results. Now, 53 percent of participants think gay marriage should be legal. This is the first time a majority of Americans favor gay marriage in the *Post/ABC* poll, according to the *Washington Post*.

March 23 (San Francisco) A federal appeals court refuses to allow gay marriages to take place in California while it considers the constitutionality of the state's voter-approved ban.

Lawyers for two same-sex couples had sought again to lift the stay after the California Supreme Court recently said it would take at least until the end of the year to consider a legal question asked by the appeals court in the case. However, Proposition 8 supporters said the ban should stay in effect to honor the voters' wishes until the legal questions are settled.

April 1 (Netherlands) It was 10 years ago, on April 1st 2001 that the Netherlands became the first nation in the world to let same-sex couples marry. Since then the Netherlands has seen nearly 15,000 same-sex marriages. Same-sex marriage is now legal in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Mexico (where same-sex marriages are allowed only in the capital city but are recognized nationwide).

April 11 - The Uruguay parliament is considering legislation that would legalize gay marriage. The bill's author, Frente Amplio MP, Sebastián Sabini, tells a Chilean newspaper, "We do not focus so much on the issue of gay marriage but of equal marriage regardless of sex, gender or religion."

Sabini says he had found, "good support and no opposition," to the bill among his colleagues and the bill is expected to be passed in the next few months by the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies and in its Senate before the end of the year.

Uruguay recognized gay civil unions in 1997. Currently, only Argentina recognizes gay marriage in South America. Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador all have different versions of civil unions.

May 5 - A two-day session of Brazil's Supreme Court decides in favour of civil union between homosexual couples. In their speeches, the ministers of the court based their arguments in favour of the legal recognition of same sex partnerships on the fundamental constitutional precepts of equality, freedom, human dignity and legal protection. The Supreme Court decision means that same sex couples in Brazil now have the same rights as straight couples.

International News

March 3 (ILGA News) Lima - Las Rojas, a lesbian group, protested and repudiated the beating of lesbians, transvestites, and gay people, recent occurrences in Lima, **Peru**. Many Peruvian activists celebrated "Kisses Against Homophobia" in front of the Lima Cathedral while Archbishop Cipriani considered this public act as an affront to the church.

March 15 (365Gay.com) Cape Town - Rights activists are speaking out against rapes targeting lesbians in **South Africa**. Luleki Sizwe, which means "guide a nation," a small group of lesbian activists in the townships of Cape Town, demonstrated outside parliament and also circulated an online petition calling on Justice Minister Jeff Radebe "to address 'corrective rape,' the increasingly common hate crime in which men rape lesbian women to 'turn' them straight or 'cure' them of their sexual orientation."

In three months, the organization gathered more than 170,000 signatures around the world. The online campaign also led thousands to send e-mails to Radebe. Activists are pushing the ministry to set up a commission to research, develop and implement a national plan to address sexual violence, violence that targets lesbians and gays and hate crimes.

"We want the government to label corrective rape ... as a hate crime," said Eugene Brockman, one of the demonstrators at parliament.

March 22 (ILGA News) Geneva - In what gay advocates described as "a stunning development for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," 85 nations signed a pro-gay statement that was read out by Colombia's representative at the *United Nations Human Rights Council* in Geneva.

United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon is the first leader of the United Nations to speak out on behalf of sexual orientation and gender identity. The statement read "express(es) concern at continued evidence in every region of acts of violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity" and "call(s) on states to take steps to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

The nations that signed the statement are Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

ILGA, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, called the statement "a very significant step forward towards international consensus on LGBTI people's rights."

"The strength of this statement makes the defense of discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexual, trans and intersex people on the basis of a mistaken sense of 'tradition' or 'natural order' more untenable than ever," said the group's co-secretary general, Renato Sabbadini. "Homophobia and transphobia are more and more acknowledged for what they truly are: the last crumbling pillars of a patriarchal order which belong with other dark pages of our past, like slavery and the Inquisition."

March 26 (Le Monde and YAGG.com) Paris - The Paris Court of appeal has rendered two decisions that confirm jurisprudence made last July by the Cour de cassation. Last year the *Cour de cassation* recognized the legal filiation between a child and the female partner of her biological mother. The decision allowed 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.

Now two more decisions of the Paris court of appeal have gone in the same direction. Adoption judgments rendered under foreign jurisdictions, this time one in Canada and one in the UK, will be legally recognized on French soil.

The first is the case of a bi-national French-British gay couple who adopted a son while in the UK. Although initially refused by the French courts the appeal judges determined that as the British decision in no way goes against the public order it should be honoured in France as well.

The arguments in court were the same for the second case. This time however the couple are both French citizens with dual Canadian citizenship. The couple wanted their Canadian adoption judgment to be recognized in France. The court accepted.

The couples' lawyer Me Caroline Mecary said, "These decisions render even more obsolete – in terms of international law and the evolution of society - the fact that adoption in France is limited to married, opposite sex couples. Today there is a distortion such that French couples living abroad have more rights than those who stay in France."

April 1 (rainbowkids.com) The *Chinese Center for Adoption Affairs* (CCAA) has made the announcement that beginning March 15th, single women will once again be able to adopt from China. What this will mean for special needs children is unimaginable. Single parent adoption once comprised over 1/3 of all adoptions from China. Singles have proven again and again to be fantastic parents with extensive community and family connections that give their children beautiful lives and futures.

The CCAA is opening the program to aid in finding good families for their "Special Focus Children." A Special Focus designation are those who have been waiting on the shared list for more than two months. The children listed as Special Focus generally are older (pre-school and school age) who have an identified special need, or children who are either healthy or have a special need, are school age, and have been on the shared list for more than 2 months. This new program for Single Women will now make these children available to singles who have no more than 2 children living at home.

April 12 (ILGA News) Botswana - Justice Zibani Makhwade of Lobatse High Court has ordered *Botswana Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS* (BONELA) to file further particularities in a case in which homosexuals and lesbians are challenging sections of the law outlawing their sexual orientation. BONELA has been ordered to file its affidavits by May 13th.

Gays and lesbians in Botswana have gone to court to challenge the legality of Section 164 of the Penal Code that criminalizes same sex relationships. The Attorney General is cited as the first respondent in the court application.

One of the applicants in the case, 29-year-old Caine Youngman says in his affidavit that he has never been able to freely express his sexuality because of the law that criminalizes same-sex relationships. He said that the offence referred to as 'carnal knowledge against the order of nature' as well as social attitudes which stigmatize and discriminate against people with his sexual orientation in Botswana has forced him to cross the border into South Africa where his sexuality is recognized and protected by the law.

May 13 (ILGA News) - Uganda's Parliament reportedly has dropped consideration of the notorious Anti-Homosexuality Bill that has been pending since 2009. The measure would imprison for life anyone convicted of "the offense of homosexuality," punish "aggravated homosexuality" (repeat offenses, or having gay sex while being HIV-positive) with the death penalty, forbid "promotion of homosexuality" and incarcerate gay-rights defenders, and jail individuals in positions of authority for up to three years if they fail to report within 24 hours the existence of all LGBT people or sympathizers known to them.

Ugandan LGBT activists are not relaxing, however, because in announcing that the bill is being abandoned, a government spokesman added that "most" of the same provisions are contained in another active bill, the Sexual Offenses Bill. No details were provided.

"We have not completely let down our guard," said Adrian Jjuuko, executive director *Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum Uganda*. "One battle might have been won, but the war on the other fronts clearly goes on. What the government has done is to remove this 'troublesome' bill and still reach the same conclusions using existing laws and new bills."

Miscellaneous News

March 23 - Apple has removed a controversial iPhone app following an outcry from the LGBT community and a petition signed by more than 150,000 people. *Exodus International* created the app, which aims to help gay people become straight through the teachings of the Bible.

The LGBT non-profit *Truth Wins Out* started the petition calling for Apple to pull the app. Wayne Besen, executive director of *Truth Wins Out*, applauded the company's response.

"Apple made a wise and responsible decision to dump an offensive app that demonized gay and lesbian people," Besen said. "The real winners today are LGBT youth who are safer and less at risk for receiving Exodus' malice and misinformation."

April 9 (ILGA News) Taiwan's first lesbian magazine has hit the bookshelves, as part of the minority group's efforts to take a more prominent role in the society. The quarterly magazine "LEZS" features topics that range from fashion trends to gender issues in the field of art.

"We are tired of the 'don't ask, don't tell' tradition in our society, " said the magazine's editor-in-chief Wang An-i, adding that the launch of the magazine marked the beginning of a revolution.

"The publication will not only discuss gender issues in Taiwan but will also help gay women in Taiwan to connect with overseas lesbian communities, especially those in China and Japan," she said.

A local non-governmental organization that promotes gender equality welcomed the publication, saying that it was an indication of greater multi-culturalism in Taiwan. "The publication will contribute to the dialogue on gay rights in Taiwan," said Tsai Wan-fen, secretary-general of Taiwan Women's Link. "We hope to see more magazines of its kind in the near future."

News from the LGBT Family Coalition UPCOMING MEETINGS

JUNE 2011:

◆ SATURDAY JUNE 11TH at 11 a.m. PICNIC-BBQ AT MOUNT ROYAL IN MONTREAL

The LGBT Family Coalition, would like to invite all LGBT family members with or without children, as well as all our allies and friends, to a **Community Picnic and Barbecue on Mount Royal**. Join us to relax and exchange with family and friends, at one of Montreal's beautiful landmarks. There will be food, music, sports and games. This activity will take place on **Saturday June 11th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** We will meet near the Chalet at Lac des Castors (Beaver Lake).

N.B. We will be selling our delicious LGBT Family Coalition BBQ Plate, as well as Cécile and Emmanuelle's magnificent punch (adults' and kids' versions). If you'd like you can also bring other food, music, games and/or a picnic blanket to share with others.

Directions to Beaver Lake: Orange Line metro to Mont Royal and 11 bus west.

For more information please call Mona at: 514-846-1543 or Gary 514-522-3497

◆ SATURDAY JUNE 18TH at 11:30 a.m. PICNIC AT THE PARC BOIS DE COULONGE IN QUEBEC CITY

The LGBT Family Coalition, would like to invite all LGBT family members with or without children, as well as all our allies and friends, to a **Community Picnic at the Park Bois-de-Coulonge**.

Where: 1215 Grande-Allée Ouest (arrondissement Ste-Foy-Sillery)

Free Parking

By bus: routes 11, 25 and Metro-bus 800/801 (stop at René-Lévesque / Holland and then walk 5-10 minutes).

Meeting place: Children's playground

For more information please call GRIS-QC at: (418) 523-5572

◆ **SUNDAY JUNE 19TH from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

PICNIC AT THE PARK MOUSSETTE-HULL

The LGBT Family Coalition, would like to invite all LGBT family members with or without children, as well as all our allies and friends, to a **Community Picnic Moussette-Hull**.

Please see attached flier for more information

JULY 2011:

◆ **SATURDAY JULY 16TH**

A DAY AT THE BEACH AT LAC PHILIPPE- GATINEAU PARK

Please see attached flier for more information

◆ **SATURDAY JULY 30TH OR IN CASE OF RAIN, SUNDAY JULY 31ST**

A DAY AT THE BEACH AT THE SEPAQ CAMPSITE NEAR GRANBY

For those of you who have not signed up for camping at the Yamaska Provincial Park, why don't you come and spend the day swimming and picnicking with all the families that will be on the site for the weekend? Come make the park a "Provincetown in Quebec." (See attached flier for details)

For more information please call EMILIE at: 514 768-8537

AUGUST 2011 – PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

◆ **SATURDAY AUGUST 13TH and SUNDAY AUGUST 14TH**

COMMUNITY DAY AND PRIDE PARADE

N.B.: The Pride Parade and Community Day have been scheduled for the weekend of August 13th and 14th. Please reserve this date in your calendars. We will give you an update on this in the weeks to come!

BULLETIN BOARD:

♦ The **LGBT Family Coalition** is looking for **teenagers** from the Coalition that would like to do babysitting and families that are looking for **babysitters**. Do you have a teenager who is looking for work? Are you desperately looking for a babysitter who would be at ease with your family? Contact the Coalition if you have a teenager or are looking for a babysitter. Tell us where you live, how many kids you have and what age they are. The Coalition will try to connect you! info@familleshomoparentales.org or **514-846-1543**

♦ **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.cdfdrp.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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