



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XII - No. III – March 2011

Surrogacy in Quebec: Still a Grey Zone?

By Mona Greenbaum
Director LGBT Family Coalition

An increasing number of gay men (and lesbians with fertility issues) are turning to surrogacy as a way of becoming parents. Although this is a practice that is better known elsewhere in Canada and in the U.S., in Quebec there are still many unanswered questions. With the number of future parents in the Coalition growing from year to year, this is a new dossier for us, and something that needs to be further explored.

If you ask around, most Quebecers think that surrogacy is illegal. In fact, Article 541 of the *Civil Code of Quebec* provides that: “Any agreement whereby a woman undertakes to procreate or carry a child for another person is absolutely null.” What this means is that a contract between a surrogate and the intended parents has no legal validity. Even though there is a strong prohibition against the contracts, there is no legislation in Quebec regarding the act of surrogacy itself.

Some judges however see it as being against public policy. A recent case in Quebec came before the courts with a very strict interpretation of the civil code. In January 2009, the Court of Quebec decided not to grant a request for adoption, by the wife of the child’s father, of a newborn born to a surrogate mother.

With the father’s consent to adoption and no mother registered on the Declaration of Birth, the petition fulfilled all of the legal requirements for a regular adoption. However, the judge refused to grant the request stating that it would ultimately validate what had been from the start an illegal endeavour. Despite the petitioner’s appeals to the usually prevailing principle of the “child’s best interest”, the Court dismissed the motion.

In the Coalition, on the other hand, a number of couples have started their families through surrogacy. Despite the 2009 judgment they have all succeeded in obtaining legal recognition for *both* parents. Could this be a double standard for gays and lesbians?

On the federal level, with the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act*, monetary compensation for sperm or egg donors, as well as for surrogates is a criminal act. The legislation does however allow for “altruistic surrogacy”. Although remuneration is illegal, “altruistic” gamete donors and surrogates can have their expenses covered. The federal government has yet to define exactly what these expenses are and so remunerated surrogacy is still going on in Canada.

As you can see there are still many grey zones, but that doesn’t stop the practice from being carried out.

In fact, it has evolved. In traditional surrogacy the sperm of the intended father or a sperm donor was used to impregnate the surrogate, with her own egg. Nowadays, “gestational surrogates” will have an embryo (made from the donated ovum of another woman) implanted into her uterus. In fact she will carry a baby to which she is not genetically linked. The surrogate is simply seen as a “carrier.” The idea behind this is that it is legally simpler, and that the surrogate will be less attached, if the baby is not genetically connected to her.

All of the couples in our group went outside of Quebec to arrange for their surrogate mother. Because Quebec is the only province where contracts are not legal, many go to Ontario. Canadian Surrogacy Options is an agency that provides a number of services including organizing everything around finding a surrogate, assuring that legal issues are taken care of for all parties involved, setting up medical appointments and supporting both the surrogate and the intended parents throughout the process.

Other couples go to the U.S. Certain states have very clear policies supporting surrogacy. California is an example. As in other Canadian provinces, once a child is born, the intended parents can be legally recognized quite rapidly and easily. California has the added advantage that the surrogate can legally renounce her parental authority even *before* the baby is born.

In Europe, the number of countries which prohibit or allow surrogacy are about even: France, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Germany and Italy prohibit it while Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ukraine, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom allow it. France, whose civil code is the basis for Quebec's, took a very similar approach: article 16.7 of the French Civil Code provides that "Any agreement concerning procreation or gestation for others is null". In addition, the penal code makes it an offence for anyone to facilitate such an agreement.

A recent decision from the *Cour de Cassation*, France's highest civil court, refused to recognize the filiation of twins conceived through surrogacy. In 2000, a French couple had traveled to California, where the procedure is legal, to conceive a child borne by a surrogate mother. In 2007 the Californian birth certificate naming the couple as parents to the children was transferred to a French registry following a decision by the *Cour d'appel de Paris*. That decision, however, was overturned by the *Cour de Cassation*: as surrogacy is against public policy, the court refused to recognize the certificate resulting from a surrogacy contract.

Can this happen here in Quebec? Is it possible that judges will look to French jurisprudence and fail to recognize a birth certificate or the adoption papers that have been validated abroad? Could children born through surrogacy end up not receiving the same legal protections that are afforded to other children in Quebec?

The legal, ethical and social issues around surrogacy abound.

Recognizing the need to address this complex topic we have invited a number of speakers to answer your questions:

- **Marie-France Bureau:** professor of law, Sherbrooke University, specialist on LGBT family law
- **Doreen Brown:** practicing lawyer who has helped many surrogate parents in Montreal
- **Jonathan Cutler and Jean-Francois Monette:** fathers through surrogacy
- **John J. Weltman:** president of Circle Surrogacy, Boston, and expert in reproductive legal issues.
- **Joanne Wright:** director Canadian Surrogacy Options, Ontario, and 4-time surrogate mother

Our space is limited to 70 people, so advance registration is necessary. Please see the attached flier for more information.

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: December 2010 - February 2011

Canada News

December 23rd 2010 *The Globe and Mail (Ottawa)* After 20 months of deliberation the Supreme Court of Canada finally rendered its verdict: Except for a few notable exceptions, the regulations regarding assisted procreation fall under provincial jurisdiction over health care and should not be federally controlled. The 150-page judgement dashed any hope of unified Pan-Canadian laws for assisted procreation in a domain where provinces, notably Quebec, already have their own legal framework regarding assisted procreation practices.

The deeply divided ruling was a significant victory for the province of Quebec, which launched a constitutional challenge against the federal government six years ago after Ottawa passed its Assisted Human Reproduction Act. "The judgement maintains that Quebec can make its own choices when it comes to health issues," said Yves Bolduc, the provincial Health minister.

Judge Thomas Cromwell, was the only judge to hold a middle-ground position amongst his 8 colleagues, four of whom were in favour of total federal control and four in favour of total provincial control. The 4 judges in favour of Ottawa argued that the payment of egg and sperm donors, the norms that fertility clinics must follow and the protection of personal information about donors, for example, are subject to the criminal code and thus under federal jurisdiction. The 4 other judges said that these issues are health issues and should thus be legislated on a provincial level.

With Cromwell's decision, the court majority concluded that some articles of the law, like the minimum age of donors or the remuneration of donors and surrogates should remain under federal jurisdiction, but that much of the oversight of the fertility industry is up to the provinces, rather than the federal government. Provincial control will include matter such as the control of clinics and research governing the use and care of human embryos, eggs and sperm. It will be up to each province, for instance, to decide how many embryos can be transferred to a prospective mother or how donor information will be controlled.

The Supreme Court ruling also effectively kills plans for a national registry to collect health and genetic information on anonymous sperm and egg donors, as well as to track infants born from assisted human reproduction and the women and men who undergo the treatments.

The judgement does not immediately deal with all problems related to assisted procreation. The remuneration of surrogates still remains illegal under federal law, which does however allow for the reimbursement of certain expenses (which expenses are allowable should be determined by Health Canada). But Quebec still does not recognize surrogacy contracts. So the debate in Quebec is not over yet.

Other discussions that need to happen with Ottawa include the payment of sperm donors. "I hope that the federal government will listen to us this time," said Dr François Bissonnette, medical director of the OVO fertility clinic. Sperm donors have not been paid since 2004. The result: Canadian sperm banks are empty and individuals and couples must turn increasingly to commercial sperm banks based outside of the country.

In general, observers are hopeful that provincial and federal laws will harmonise well thanks to regulations that are already in place in many provinces.

January 19th 2011 *Xtra West News (Ontario)* Following a barrage of international criticism, an Ontario Catholic school board has overturned its decision to ban gay-straight alliance groups. In a 6 to 2 vote, Halton Catholic District School Board Trustees voted to scrap a section of the Board's "Equity and Inclusive Education Policy" that effectively banned gay rights groups — a policy that made international headlines earlier this month, prompting criticism from around the world, and even raising the ire of gay celebrity blogger, Perez Hilton.

In a statement, Board Chair Alice Anne LeMay said, "As a Catholic school system that teaches the respect, dignity and love of all people, we take seriously our faith-directed and legislated responsibilities to provide safe, equitable and inclusive school environments."

"The most compelling voices on this issue have come from some of the students in our care, who have expressed to us that they don't always feel included and they have not always felt safe, and we need to listen to the voices of our students. Those voices are for us the most significant, and we are responding to that articulated need for support," said Michael Pautler, Director of Education for the Halton Catholic District School Board.

"We will create safe and supportive forums for all of our students, including our youth who are gay, straight or questioning their sexual orientation. In these gatherings, students can safely discuss issues and concerns and examine ways to address homophobia, bullying, discrimination and harassment of any kind."

The Board enacted the controversial policy after the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario sent a letter to all Catholic Boards suggesting support should be provided to students to promote "healthy relationships" in ways other than the ministry-proposed gay-straight alliance groups, as such groups might be premature for high school students.

The Ontario Ministry of Education had recommended that gay-straight alliance groups as a way for schools to combat discrimination.

January 14th 2011 *The Globe and Mail* (Toronto) Canada's broadcast standards council has ruled that Dire Straits' 1985 hit "Money for Nothing" should be censored because of a homosexual slur in its lyrics. The council said the British band's use of a slur referring to gay people three times in the song breaches the national broadcasters' code of ethics. The council said an edited version of the song could be played.

Helen Kennedy, executive director of Egale Canada, an organization that promotes equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified people, said the decision is the right move given a number of teenage suicides that took place in the U.S. last year after they were subjected to homophobic bullying.

"It perpetuates the stereotype, it's negative and it's offensive. If you look to the origin of the word, it's disgusting," said Kennedy.

The council said it realized Dire Straits used the word sarcastically when the best-selling "Brothers in Arms" album was released in 1985, but said it was inappropriate. The decision was made after a radio listener complained about the song last year. The station would not comment on the decision.

February 9th 2011 *The Globe and Mail* (Ottawa) Members of Parliament voted 143 to 135 to pass Bill C-389 through third reading. Bill C-389 seeks to add "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the Canadian Human Rights Act's list of prohibited grounds of discrimination.

But the private member's bill introduced by Bill Siksay, the NDP MP for Burnaby-Douglas, still faces another hurdle as it heads to the Senate.

The majority of NDP, Liberal and Bloc members voted in favour of the bill, while it was opposed by most Conservative MPs. Some cabinet ministers, including James Moore and Lawrence Cannon, voted in favour of the bill.

Gay Marriage News

December 8th 2010 The mile-high club is redefined as two couples, one gay and one lesbian, became the first same-sex couples to get married on board an airplane. The spectacle was organized by SAS Scandinavian Airlines which hosted a wildly successful social media campaign, "Love is in the Air" to marry the world's first same-sex couple on its plane.

The two winners of the competition, German couple Aleksandar Mijatovic and Shantu Bhattacha, and Polish couple Ewa Tomaszewicz and Gosia Rawińska, received the most votes in the campaign and became the ones to create history, as they celebrated their unions on aboard flight SK903 flying from Stockholm to New York.

January 4th 2011 (San Francisco) A federal appeals court says it can't decide if California's gay marriage ban is constitutional until the state's highest court weighs in on whether Proposition 8's sponsors have the authority to defend the ban. In a brief order, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asked the California Supreme Court to decide if the backers of ballot propositions can step in to defend voter-approved measures in court when state officials refuse to do so. The question is central to the future of Proposition 8 because former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and then-Attorney General Jerry Brown refused to appeal a San Francisco trial judge's August decision striking down the ban as a violation of gay Californians' civil rights.

January 28th 2011 (Paris) France's law prohibiting gay marriage does not violate the constitution, the country's top constitutional watchdog has ruled as it noted that parliament was free to make new laws on the subject. That left open the option for a constitutional amendment in the future – and hope for two women who had challenged the French civil code's stipulation that marriage must be between a man and a woman.

Corinne Cestino and Sophie Hasslauer, who have lived together for 15 years and have four children, had challenged the constitutionality of France's law banning the gay marriage. In its decision, the Council noted that lawmakers had agreed that the "difference in situations of same-sex couples and couples made up of a man and a woman can justify a difference in treatment concerning family rights." "It is not up to the Constitutional Council to substitute its appreciation for that of lawmakers," the body said. It noted that its job is to simply rule on whether a measure abides by the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the French Constitution. In this case, it ruled that the articles in question are, indeed, "in conformity with the constitution."

International News

December 18th 2010 365Gay.com (Washington, D.C.) In a landmark for gay rights, the American Senate has voted to let gays serve openly in the military, giving President Barack Obama the chance to fulfill a campaign promise and repeal the 17-year policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

"It is time to close this chapter in our history," Obama said in a statement after a test vote cleared the way for final action. "It is time to recognize that sacrifice, valor and integrity are no more defined by sexual orientation than they are by race or gender, religion or creed." The Senate vote was 65-31. The House had passed an identical version of the bill, 250-175, a few days earlier.

Repeal would mean that, for the first time in American history, gays would be openly accepted by the military and could acknowledge their sexual orientation without fear of being kicked out.

More than 13,500 service members have been dismissed under the 1993 law.

"As Barry Goldwater said, 'You don't have to be straight to shoot straight,'" said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., referring to the late GOP senator from Arizona.

December 21, 2010 Arc International News The United Nations General Assembly has voted by an overwhelming majority to adopt an amendment to the executions resolution condemning killings based on

sexual orientation and urging States to "ensure the effective protection of the right to life of all persons under their jurisdiction and to investigate promptly and thoroughly all killings, including killings of persons ... because of their sexual orientation".

- 93 States voted to include sexual orientation in the resolution. This represents the largest ever degree of support at the UN for including sexual orientation in the resolution (up from 78 in 2008). 55 States opposed, and 27 abstained, while 17 were absent or did not vote.

- States supporting sexual orientation inclusion represented every region of the globe: from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Pacific Islands, and the West. This is a powerful indicator of increased understanding and support for sexual orientation issues in diverse countries worldwide.

The reference to sexual orientation had been removed by an earlier amendment at the committee level by governments opposed to ensuring protection for individuals targeted because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. A UN General Assembly sub-committee responsible for human rights issues voted in November 2010 to remove the reference to "sexual orientation" from a paragraph enumerating vulnerable populations in the resolution condemning extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. The earlier removal of the reference to sexual orientation, approved in committee by a vote of 79 in favor, 70 opposed, with 17 abstaining and 26 not voting, was met by an international outcry.

January 6th 2011 365Gay.com (Trenton, NJ) New Jersey's governor has signed an anti-bullying bill that gay rights advocates say is the toughest law of its kind in America.

The issue has gotten more attention since a Rutgers University student killed himself this fall after his roommate allegedly captured his liaison with another man on a webcam.

The law requires anti-bullying programs in public schools and requires college codes of conduct to address bullying. The gay rights group Garden State Equality and the bill's sponsor, state Sen. Diane Allen, are praising the state government for signing the law.

January 27th 2011 HRC News (NAIROBI, Kenya) David Kato knew he was a marked man. As the most outspoken gay rights advocate in Uganda, a country where homophobia is so severe that Parliament is considering a bill to execute gay people, he had received a stream of death threats, his friends said. A few months ago, a Ugandan newspaper ran an anti-gay diatribe with Mr. Kato's picture on the front page under a banner urging, "Hang Them."

On January 26th, Mr. Kato was beaten to death with a hammer in his rough and tumble neighborhood. Police officials were quick to chalk up the motive to robbery, but the small and increasingly besieged gay community in Uganda suspects otherwise. "David's death is a result of the hatred planted in Uganda by U.S Evangelicals in 2009," said Val Kalende, the chairperson of one of Uganda's gay rights groups, in a statement. "The Ugandan Government and the so-called U.S Evangelicals must take responsibility for David's blood."

Mrs. Kalende was referring to visits in March 2009 by a group of American evangelicals, who held rallies and workshops in Uganda discussing how to make gay people straight, how gay men sodomized teenage boys and how "the gay movement is an evil institution" intended to "defeat the marriage-based society."

The Americans involved said they had no intention of stoking a violent reaction. But the anti-gay bill came shortly thereafter. Some of the Ugandan politicians and preachers who wrote it had attended those sessions and said that they had discussed the legislation with the Americans.

After growing international pressure and threats from a few European countries to cut assistance — Uganda relies on hundreds of millions of dollars of aid — Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni, indicated that the bill would be scrapped. But more than a year later, that has not happened and the legislation remains a

simmering issue in Parliament. Some observers think the bill could be passed in the coming months. Uganda's minister of ethics and integrity, James Nsaba Buturo, a devout Christian, has said "Homosexuals can forget about human rights."

In October, a Ugandan newspaper called *Rolling Stone* (with a circulation of roughly 2,000 and no connection to the American music magazine) published a story that included photos and whereabouts of gay people, including several well-known activists like Mr. Kato. The paper said gay people were raiding schools and recruiting children, a belief that is quite widespread in Uganda and has helped drive the homophobia. Mr. Kato and a few other gay activists sued the paper and won. In January 2011, Uganda's High Court ordered *Rolling Stone* to pay hundreds of dollars in damages and to cease publishing the names of people it said were gay. But the danger remained.

Judith Nabakooba, a police spokeswoman, said Mr. Kato's death does not appear to be a hate crime, though the investigation has just started. "It looks like theft, as some things were stolen," Mrs. Nabakooba said.

Miscellaneous News

February 3rd 2011 (*The Gazette*) Being bullied for being gay or lesbian can lead to a hormonal disruption that can boost suicide rates, memory loss, cardiovascular problems and bone density depletion, a study by a Concordia University graduate shows. "This shows that homophobia is bad for your health," said the study's author, Michael Benibgui. The newly released study is the first to prove a biological link between homophobic bullying and long-lasting physical and psychological conditions, he said.

The study involved 63 Montrealers between the ages of 18 and 25 who answered questionnaires and provided saliva samples in 2003 and 2004, said Benibgui, who was doing his doctoral thesis at the time. Part of the study was made public in 2005, but Benibgui didn't get around to releasing the rest until now.

The results showed that victims of homophobia had disruptions in their output of cortisol, a hormone released in the brain as a response to stress. Normally, cortisol levels are highest in the morning and lowest in the evening, but those facing homophobic bullying consistently produced higher levels throughout the day, Benibgui said.

While the study did not directly gauge participants' physical side effects, it is well-known that cortisol disruptions can lead to physical ailments. Besides measuring cortisol, the study's main focus was on whether participants were more depressed or had more thoughts of suicide or suicide attempts. The study incorporated other research showing suicide rates are 14 times higher among homosexuals.

The study's participants were members of lesbian, gay and bisexual support groups in CEGEPs and universities. Among this group, levels of cortisol production varied significantly. This may be because some of the participants were more victimized by coming out. "By seeking support, they might become more exposed and become more vulnerable" to verbal and physical attacks, Benibgui noted. "It's a double-edged sword."

And yet parental, family and peer support for a person who is lesbian, gay or bisexual was the greatest countermeasure to cortisol disruption. Such support also strongly affected the person's resiliency.

More widespread study is necessary, Benibgui said, but he hopes gay-positive policies can now be justified by his findings, if not on their moral and ethical merits alone.

January 20th 2011 *The New York Times* (Jacksonville, Fla.) Recent data from the Census Bureau found that Jacksonville hosts one of the biggest gay parent populations in the country and child rearing by gay parents is more common there than anywhere else in America.

The survey found that gay couples in the South are more likely to raise children than gay couples on the West Coast, New York and New England. The amount of gay couples raising children is 32 percent in Jacksonville and 34 percent in San Antonio.

"We're starting to see that the gay community is very diverse," said Bob Witeck, chief executive of Witeck-Combs Communications, which helped market the census to gay people. "We're not all rich white guys," he told *The New York Times*

Gary Gates, a demographer at the University of California, Los Angeles, worked with the Census and found that black or Latino gay couples are twice as likely as white gay couples to raise children. Gates theorizes that a possible majority of gay couples have children from a previous heterosexual relationship but continue to raise the children in his or her gay relationship.

Jacksonville resident Darlene Maffett, 43, said "people grew up in church, so a lot of us lived in shame." Maffett had two children in a marriage of eight years before coming out. "What did we do? We wandered around lost. We married men, and then couldn't understand why every night we had a headache," she told *The Times*.

Maffett was attracted to Jacksonville because even though the gay community was hidden, it had a gay-friendly church. Her partner, Valerie Williams, 33, became pastor of the gay friendly church, St. Luke's, and has since seen many young women coming out.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH 2011:

◆ Monday March 7th at 7 p.m.

CONFERENCE: SURROGACY IN QUEBEC

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

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

◆ Sunday March 13th from 12 – 3:30 p.m.

GATINEAU: FAMILY ACTIVITY: LUNCH AND SWIMMING AT THE GATINEAU SPORTS CENTRE

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

◆ Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m.

NEW CAFÉ - THEME NIGHTS: PARENTS OF ADOPTED CHILDREN

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-3941

◆ Sunday March 20th from 8:30– 5 p.m.

Baby CPR Course

◆ Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.

MONTREAL: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS : SURVIVING THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR YOUNG CHILD (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-1950

◆ Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.

QUEBEC CITY: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS – PART 3: FERTILITY CLINICS

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

Location: Université Laval, Pavillon Charles-De Koninck, Local DKN-0231
1030, avenue des Sciences-Humaines, Québec (Québec) G1V OA6

◆ SATURDAY March 26th AT 11:15 a.m.

SUGARING OFF PARTY : La Cabane à Sucre Lalande (St-Eustache).

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FORM FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

APRIL 2011:

◆ Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.

MONTREAL: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS : UNDERSTAND AND ANSWER (OR NOT?) THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-1950

◆ Sunday April 10th at 11:00 a.m.

GATINEAU: FAMILY ACTIVITY: CABANE A SUCRE AT THE DOMAINE DE L'ANGE GARDIEN

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

◆ Monday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m.

QUEBEC CITY: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS – PART 4: UNDERSTAND AND ANSWER (OR NOT?) THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

Location: Université Laval, Pavillon Charles-De Koninck, Local DKN-0231
1030, avenue des Sciences-Humaines, Québec (Québec) G1V OA6

MAY 2011:

◆ Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m.

QUEBEC CITY: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS – PART 5: OUT IN THE WORLD : SURVIVING DAY CARE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

Location: Université Laval, Pavillon Charles-De Koninck, Local DKN-0231
1030, avenue des Sciences-Humaines, Québec (Québec) G1V OA6

◆ Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m.

MONTREAL: COURSE FOR FUTURE PARENTS : OUT IN THE WORLD : SURVIVING DAY CARE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

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

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-Francs. Briser l'isolement, favoriser l'échange, l'identification et l'affirmation de soi.
Info: margelleboisfrancs@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.cdfdrdp.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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