



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XIV - No. II – December 2012

The Coalition Gets a Home

By Mona Greenbaum, director, LGBT Family Coalition

Back in 1998 when the LGBT Family Coalition was founded (under the name Lesbian Mothers' Association), my partner Nicole and I had just given birth to our first son. In fact, the first meeting occurred when Léo was only 6 weeks old. It took place in our living room and the 40 women who showed up sat around in a big circle: some on chairs, some on the floor with pillows, and some spilling over into our hallway and kitchen.

For the first few years when we weren't meeting for picnics or family outings, almost all of our events took place in our living room or in the homes of other members who were generous enough to give up their personal space for an evening. Sometimes for bigger get-togethers we used the locales of churches or community centres.

Beginning around 2000, as we became more and more of an activist group, we registered as a non-profit organization and elected our first board of directors. Our board meetings, as formal as that might sound, still occurred in restaurants, cafés and bars in the gay village. Despite the setting, this was where many intense discussions occurred about what our rights should look like and what strategies could best be employed to advance our cause. Some of the most important work we did still was taking place around kitchen and restaurant tables.

Meanwhile our membership continued to grow, and as of 2006 we unofficially and eventually officially became a mixed group. We now count about 1200 families in our database: families throughout Quebec who receive our information and support, who find community in our activities, newsletter, Facebook page and on-line forum and who are all welcome to join our activities regardless of whether they pay their membership dues or not.

Currently, one of our most important goals as an organization is to train and empower school personnel as well as health care and social service providers to deal with issues of prejudice and homophobia. Over the years, we have trained thousands of professionals who work with our children and our families. Some of the funding for this work comes from Quebec's Ministry of Education, some from the Ministry of Work and Social Solidarity and of course your donations help us to make ends meet and continue this essential work. We have two teams of animators based in Montreal and Quebec City who meet with teachers, school principals, day-care workers, university students, social workers, doctors, nurses, psychologists, etc. to help sensitize them about family diversity, homophobia, heterosexism and gender-based harassment. The main focus of our work is in Quebec's schools.

And yet while our organization has continued to grow and evolve, we've depended on others to provide us with meeting places. As you know, many of our meetings over the years were held at UQAM thanks to the help of Dr Danielle Julien who carried out a lot of important research on our families. Our "office," where much of the everyday work of the Coalition takes place, and where our materials are stocked, continues to be in my family's home...

This is about to change.

We have recently been offered the opportunity to share office space with a wonderful organization. In the past two years I have sat on the board of the Fédération du Québec pour le planning des naissances (FQPN), a

group which is primarily known for its work in the pro-choice movement, but which is also increasingly involved in issues around assisted procreation and reproductive justice, issues that are very important to many of our members. Sharing their offices seems a natural fit.

The offices of the FQPN are housed within the Maison Parent-Roback (MPR) a collective of feminist groups, a publishing house and a documentation centre. Over the years we have collaborated with a number of these groups including Les Éditions du remue-ménage (publishers of *Ulysse et Alice* and *Ulysse alias Easy Loup Galop*), the Quebec Women's Federation (FFQ) and the Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale (RMFVVC), amongst others.

To rent our own space, rather than sublet from another group, we needed to become a member of the MPR. Because the MPR has as a mandate to improve the lot of women, we had to show that we shared their goals. We submitted an official request showing that even though we are not a women's-only group we have had, over the years, a strong mandate to promote the well-being of women. We have fought and continue to fight for lesbian rights, reproductive rights, lesbian health issues and the ending of gender-based discrimination.

In October, our candidature was accepted and over the past 6 weeks we have been working to install our new offices on the fourth floor of the MPR. Our space will include an office, a meeting room and access to the common area on the ground floor where all our group activities will now be held. The building is situated in Old Montreal right near the *Palais de justice* and Montreal's old port. We are on rue Ste-Thérèse in between two metros: Champs de mars and Place d'armes.

Because our offices are finally in a public space, LGBT parents and future parents as well as researchers and students will be able to meet up with us in person, consult our library and partake in our events. As we carry out dozens of interviews each year, the media will also have an appropriate place to encounter us.

All of our members and allies will be invited to a house-warming party in 2013. The Coalition has finally found a home!

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: Up to December 2012

Quebec News

September 12, 2012 (*La Presse*) After seven months of existence, the Assisted Procreation Centre of the *Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal* (CHUM) is still only functioning at one quarter of its capacity. Despite this, the Quebec government is still continuing on with its plans to construct yet another public fertility centre at the Ste-Justine Hospital less than 7 kms away.

The CHUM fertility centre, which opened last February, is one of the largest in Canada. It has the capacity to carry out 1500 fertility cycles per year in its 40,000 sq. ft. local. Despite this, only 200 cycles occurred in the first 7 months, only 25% of its goal.

"It is not because we lack the space or the personnel. We can easily increase the volume but the demand is just not there. We don't even have a waiting list," says Dr Jacques Kadoch, director of the centre.

Quebec's Health Ministry announced in August that it would invest 5.1 million dollars to launch the first phase of an Assisted Procreation Centre at Sainte-Justine Hospital. Smaller than the CHUM, this clinic would allow up to 400 cycles per year. This centre would also specialize in genetic problems. The end of the construction is slated for 2013 but the centre is currently seeing patients in a temporary location.

The Clinic at Sainte-Justine Hospital will become Montreal's 7th fertility centre. In addition to those at McGill and the CHUM, Montreal has four private clinics where treatments are reimbursed by the *Régie de l'assurance maladie*: OVO, Procrea, the Montreal Reproductive Centre, and the Montreal Fertility Centre. Two other fertility clinics will open their doors in the next few years in University hospitals in Quebec City and Sherbrooke. The government hopes that fertility treatments will go increasingly towards the public system in university hospitals where research and teaching are mandated.

October 1, 2012 (*The Gazette*) The McGill University Reproductive Centre's ethical judgment was called into question amid news reports that doctors there approved artificial insemination for a 37-year-old woman with a criminal record of violence who is suffering from major depression, anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders. The woman was inseminated with sperm from an anonymous donor, which by law requires screening by a psychologist.

The woman gave birth last October, and her child was quickly transferred under the care of the Director of Youth Protection. She hasn't seen her child since. The woman first approached the private Clinique OVO on Décarie Blvd., but was turned down after a psychologist determined that her mental illnesses were so severe that she lacked the reasoning capacity to raise a child. She tried another private clinic and was rebuffed before turning to the McGill clinic.

Officials with the McGill University Health Centre refused to comment on the case, citing patient confidentiality rules. However, a spokesperson said that, "In general, if a patient lies to the doctor or the psychologist, there's nothing we can do about it."

Canada News

September 20 (*The Gazette*) Seven years after Canada legalized same-sex marriage, gay and lesbian couples are running to the altar in record numbers. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of same-sex married couples more than doubled, according to new census data.

Data showed that married couples have overall declined as a proportion of all families during the period. However, the number of declared same-sex couples has skyrocketed since same-sex marriage was legalized in Canada in July 2005. The census counted 64,575 same-sex couples in 2011, up 42.4 percent from 2006. Of these, 21,015 were same-sex married couples (up 181.5 percent) and 43,560 were same-sex common-law couples (up 15 percent).

There were 10,630 same-sex couples (730 of them with children) in the greater Montreal region in the 2011 federal census, according to Statistics Canada figures. That is a 27-per-cent increase since the 2006 census, when there were 8,365 such couples (the number of Montreal same-sex households with children was not calculated in 2006).

Of the 10,630 couples, 2,230 were married and 8,400 were in common-law relationships. Of all the couples, the largest amount — 2,455 of them — had spouses between 35 and 54 years old, indicating how much of a trend getting married has become among those old enough to remember the divisive debates a decade ago over same-sex civil unions and marriages.

September 24, 2012 (*Ottawa Citizen*) For many who received an email from Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney about gay refugees, the message raised one important question: How did he know I'm gay?

The bulk email sent from Kenney's MP's office to thousands was titled "LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) Refugees in Iran" and began with the salutation, "Friend." It proceeded to trumpet steps taken by

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and the Conservative government to protect the rights of gay and lesbian refugees, especially those coming from Iran.

Among the recipients was Meredith Richmond of Peterborough, Ont., who, to her knowledge, had never had any contact with Kenney's office before. While Richmond had never directly emailed Kenney's office, she was one of nearly 10,000 people who electronically signed a 2011 online petition supporting a gay artist from Nicaragua, who was then facing deportation.

Toronto community organizer and former NDP candidate Michael Erickson posted the petition on the website change.org. Whenever someone "signed" the petition, the site automatically sent a form letter by email to Kenney's office with the signatory's reply email address. It appears those thousands of messages were harvested by the email program in Kenney's office and saved for later use.

Erickson said that Kenney's office should have explained to people why they were getting the note. "As a government that has not been very friendly to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered rights, they could have saved themselves from causing some concern."

The Conservatives have targeted written messages at minority communities in the past, most notably using direct mail lists to send out greetings to Jewish voters on religious holidays. Some Jews, including those who were not affiliated with any Jewish groups were perplexed to receive Rosh Hashanah greeting cards from Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2007. They were not Conservative voters or donors and, like the gay and lesbian recipients of Kenney's email, wondered how the party got their addresses. Some recipients were alarmed by the prospect of the government assembling lists based on ethnicity or religious beliefs.

September 28 (Pink News) A new Canadian social experiment has found that millions of anti-gay slurs have been used on Twitter in the past two months.

The University of Alberta's Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services is behind a new web-based project designed to act as a "social mirror" that reflects the use of homophobic language online.

The Advocate reports that the department's newly created website NoHomophobes.com has a daily counter on its home page that tracks the number of slurs tweeted.

Figures show that the word "faggot" was used more than 2.5 million times since July. In one week alone, it was in 219,000 tweets. Meanwhile, the phrase "So Gay," was in 900,000 tweets, while another 800,000 had "No Homo." The word "dyke" came across in 350,000 comments.

The institute's Associate Director Kristopher Wells said his team "never imagined the scale of casual homophobia that actually exists on social media," adding that it continues to be "one of the few ...acceptable forms of discrimination in our society."

Gay Marriage News

August 14 - A French poll shows that 65 % of French citizens are in favour of same-sex marriage, an increase of 2% in comparison with a similar poll one year ago. However, only 53% of French are in favour of adoption of children by gays, 5% less than last year.

August 16 - 1390 same-sex couples have registered their partnerships in the **Czech Republic** since the law allowing this came into effect in July 2006. The majority of the couples are gay men.

The Czech Republic was the first post-communist country to legalize same-sex partnerships.

September 1 - MPs in **New Zealand** vote for gay marriage in a near-landslide. A conscience vote on Labour

MP Louisa Wall's bill passes by 80 votes to 40 before a packed public gallery at Parliament. The bill will now be considered by a select committee before facing two further votes before it can pass in to law.

September 3 - Poland's ruling centre-right party, Platforma Obywatelska (PO), announces that it will introduce legislation allowing gay couples to have civil unions. It's being seen as a step forward for gay rights in the Eastern European country – although it falls far short of marriage equality. The bill also fails to introduce adoption rights for same-sex couples. The measure is facing stiff opposition from social conservatives.

Last October saw Poland elect its first ever transgender MP, Anna Grodzka

September 5 - The **American** Democratic National Convention kicks off, announcing support for equal marriage, and is praised for representing, and embracing the LGBT community in the US.

The Democrats' platform, announced in Charlotte, North Carolina, endorses the move towards equal marriage rights for all, as well as abortion rights, but the actual attendance of the convention is also noteworthy because of the LGBT presence there. The *Associated Press* reported that 486 LGBT delegates attended the Democratic Party's National Convention, making up over 8% of the total attendees. Speakers include three openly gay members of congress, as well as a record turnout of LGBT delegates.

September 12 - The resistance against equal marriage on military bases from a **US** Senator has not wavered, as a new bill is introduced with a view to banning such ceremonies. Senator Jim Inhofe, and fellow Republican Roger Wicker, of Mississippi, introduce the *Military Religious Freedom Act*, which would ban same-sex wedding ceremonies on military bases, as well as "protect" military chaplains from "pressure" to perform the weddings.

September 19 - Lawmakers in the **Australian** Parliament overwhelmingly reject a bill that would have introduced equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. The House of Representatives votes 98-42 against the legislation. Despite the defeat, Australia's gay rights movement has vowed to continue their fight for marriage equality.

September 19 - An **Australian** senator resigns from the opposition's frontbench after he says that allowing same-sex couples to marry could lead to sanctioning polygamy and even bestiality. Cory Bernardi makes the comments shortly before the country's parliament overwhelmingly votes against a marriage equality bill.

October 1 - A motion calling for same-sex couples to be given the right to marry in **Northern Ireland** is defeated in the Stormont Assembly. The motion is rejected by 45 votes to 50.

October 30 - The leader of **France's** main centre-right opposition party, Jean-François Copé, calls for street protests to take place across the country over the government's proposed equal marriage law. Mr. Copé describes the reforms as a left-wing threat to the "pillars of our society".

Opposition seems to be building across many sections of French politics. A number of rural politicians call for a conscience clause, which would allow mayors in villages and small towns to refuse to perform same-sex marriages. More than 1,200 French mayors and their deputies sign a petition against the proposed law.

November 6 - **Spain's** Constitutional Court upholds the country's seven-year-long equal marriage law. The court rejects an appeal by the ruling conservative Popular Party. The party's leader, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, had previously said he supports civil unions for gay couples, but does not think they should be called marriages.

The court votes 8-3 to dismiss the appeal of the Popular Party.

November 7 – Four referenda on the ballots of the presidential elections lead to advances for the LGBT community. The **US** west coast state of **Washington** follows **Maine** and **Maryland** in passing a referendum in support of marriage rights for gay couples, and **Minnesota** votes against outlawing equal marriage.

Although Washington's legislature initially legalized the measure in February of this year, opponents succeeded in gathering enough signatures to force a state ballot. Gay couples in Washington could apply for marriage licenses as early as 6 December 2012.

Meanwhile, Minnesota votes down Amendment 1, a constitutional amendment that would have defined marriage as being a union solely between a man and a woman.

President Obama becomes the first president to openly support same-sex marriage and get re-elected.

November 7 - French President Francois Hollande's government approves a bill to legalize equal marriage and allow gay couples to adopt. The reform, opposed by more than 1,000 mayors and France's Catholic Church, will be debated by parliament in January 2013.

International News

October 1 (Pink News) Campaigners and medical professionals have welcomed **California** Governor Jerry Brown's decision to ban teenagers from accessing discredited treatments that seek to reject an LGBT identity. When the law comes into effect on 1 January 2013, California will become the first to outlaw the practice for people under the age of 18 in America. The bill has the support of mental health groups and gay rights activists. Mr. Brown said gay conversion therapy had "no basis in science or medicine," and that it would be "relegated to the dustbin of quackery".

The *Human Rights Campaign* said: "We're grateful to Governor Brown for standing with California's children. LGBT youth will now be protected from a practice that has not only been debunked as junk science, but has been proven to have drastically negative effects on their well-being".

October 1 (Huffington Post) Australian gay parents now have the same rights as heterosexual couples and will be fully eligible for paid parental leave when they have a baby. For the first time, the Government's paid parental leave for fathers will be extended to dads who whose partner is another dad. Two women who become mothers are also eligible for the paid leave.

The new *Dad and Partner Leave* will give fathers two weeks paid leave to help with the new arrival. In a same sex household one of the men will have to nominate as the primary carer if they want the 18 week parental leave, and the other as the "dad".

"The new Dad and Partner Pay will help dads take more time off in those critical early months to bond with their baby," said Minister for Families Jenny Macklin today.

October 3 (Globe and Mail) **Ukraine's** parliament took a first step toward making the promotion of homosexuality a criminal offence punishable by prison despite appeals from local and foreign human-rights groups, who said the move was discriminatory.

The draft law, which passed the first of two readings, does not clearly define what it means by the "promotion of homosexuality" but says it is a threat to national security.

If the law is enacted – something that would also require President Viktor Yanukovich to sign off on it – Ukraine's criminal code would be amended to punish anyone convicted of importing, producing or spreading "works that promote homosexuality" with jail terms of up to five years.

October 18 (Belfast Telegraph) A ban on gay and unmarried couples adopting children in **Northern Ireland** is discriminatory, a High Court judge has ruled. Mr. Justice Seamus Treacy said the rule unjustifiably targeted

those in civil partnerships. At present a single gay or lesbian person can adopt but a couple in a civil partnership cannot.

The finding came in a challenge to adoption laws brought by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC).

October 23 (Daily Mail) French President Francois Hollande has been accused of dropping plans to allow same-sex couples access to fertility treatment. Gay rights campaigners have said that fertility treatment for gay couples should be included as part of the country's equal marriage legislation, although Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault believes the issue should be addressed at a later stage.

In September, Judith Silberfeld, editor of LGBT magazine *Yagg*, told *France 24* that her readers were "incensed" by the apparent change in direction on fertility provision.

"Parliament will take its time," Interior Minister Manuel Valls said. "Nobody doubts [the reform] will become law, but all opinions – political, philosophical or religious – will be heard."

Senior Socialists including National Assembly speaker Claude Bartelone, parliamentary leader Bruno Le Roux and Harlem Desir, the party's new first secretary, want to amend the draft bill to include a clause granting gay couples the right to assisted procreation.

Inter-LGBT, a group pressing for full equality on all issues of sexual orientation, has accused President Francois Hollande of backtracking on his election promise.

October 24 (AFP) The government in the **Netherlands** is looking to change the law to take into account its 25,000 LGBT families, and issues faced by stepparents or sperm donors. The extension would mean that children could have three or more parents, taking into account the biological parents of children of same-sex couples.

Wiebe Alkema, a spokesperson for the justice ministry said the ministry "is going to investigate and see what the possibilities are for recognising three parents or more per family."

Green MP Liesbeth van Tongeren commented on what has been the norm for legally recognising parents:

"Currently parenthood in the eyes of the law is almost always the consequence of biological parenthood. This does not represent the diversity of families in the Netherlands. Often enough, the father of a child with lesbian parents also plays a role in the life of the child. How a family lives is more important than the biological lineage. The bill should take into account what's best for all concerned."

The Netherlands currently has no legal recognition for stepparents, or sperm donors who may wish to be involved in the upbringing of their child.

November 5 (AllOut) A new film, highlighting the discrimination faced by same-sex parents, has been launched to coincide with the **UK's** National Adoption Week.

Although gay couples in the UK can legally adopt children, the measure remains banned throughout much of Europe, and same-sex couples with children often face problems when it comes to legal entitlements.

Andre Banks, executive director of AllOut, a global LGBT campaign group, said: "EU member states pride themselves on integration, but their governments still fail to resolve the legal hurdles keeping same-sex families from full recognition across borders."

To see the film: <http://www.invisibleparents.eu/>

November 7 (*Washington Post*) Democrat Tammy Baldwin has become the first openly gay member of the **US** Senate, beating Republican Tommy Thompson in the senate race for Wisconsin. Ms. Baldwin tweeted from her official account after her win: "I didn't run to make history. I ran to make a difference".

The 50-year-old is described as a strong supporter of LGBT, women's rights and has pushed heavily for healthcare reform.

November 10 (*AllOut*) In **Cameroon**, homosexuality is still considered a criminal offence and carries a jail sentence of six months to five years as well as a fine. Many are regularly arrested without any evidence of being 'guilty'. On 13 September, the organization All Out (www.allout.org) launched on its website the Free Roger Now petition. It calls Cameroonian President Paul Biya and his minister of justice "to free Roger Jean-Claude Mbédé, who was jailed for sending a text message, and to place a moratorium on Cameroon's discriminatory anti-gay laws."

By November more than one 110,000 people from around the world had signed the petition. According to the petition, Cameroon's ant-gay laws "deny basic human rights to many Cameroonians like Roger and create an environment of hostility and fear". The petition goes on to urge ending "the use of laws that make it a crime to love who you choose and encourage their permanent repeal".

To sign: <http://www.allout.org/en/actions/roger>

November 14 (*ILGA News*) Nigerian lawmakers have moved a step closer to approving a bill that would harshly crack down on gay rights, including banning same-sex marriage and public displays of affection between homosexual couples. The bill, which has already been approved by the Senate, passed a second reading in the House of Representatives with a unanimous vote and will now see a clause-by-clause review in the chamber at an undetermined date.

"It is alien to our society and culture and it must not be imported," House majority leader Mulikat Adeola-Akande said during debate, referring to same-sex marriage. "Religion abhors it and our culture has no place for it," she added.

Nigeria's senate, in November 2011, approved the bill that would make same-sex marriages punishable by up to 14 years for the couple and 10 for anyone abetting such unions. It also set out a 10-year sentence for "any person who ... directly or indirectly makes public show of same-sex amorous relationships".

Gay organizations would also be made illegal, leading some to raise concerns over whether funding channeled through non-governmental organizations in Nigeria for AIDS treatment would be put in jeopardy.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has already warned that his country will consider withholding aid from countries that do not recognize gay rights. The United States has expressed concerns over the Nigerian legislation.

Meanwhile in **Uganda**, Parliamentary Speaker Rebecca Kadaga has said that the country will officially pass the 'Kill The Gays' bill at the end of this year despite international criticism. She said the bill will become law by December since most Ugandans 'are demanding it'. Referring to the law as a 'Christmas gift' to the population, she spoke of 'the serious threat' posed by homosexuals.

The law will broaden the criminalization of same-sex relationships by dividing homosexuality into two categories; aggravated homosexuality and the offense of homosexuality.

'Aggravated homosexuality' is defined as gay acts committed by parents or authority figures, HIV-positive people, pedophiles and repeat offenders. If convicted, they will face the death penalty. The 'offense of homosexuality' includes same-sex sexual acts or being in a gay relationship, and will be prosecuted by life imprisonment.

According to a 2010 survey by The Pew Research Center, homosexuality is morally unacceptable to 89% of Ugandans.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DECEMBER 2012

◆ **Sunday December 2nd 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 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.

◆ **Friday December 7th 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 Marie-Christine at (418) 523-5572 or by e-mail: demystification@grisquebec.org

◆ **Saturday December 8th from 3:00– 8 p.m.**

OUTAOUAIS: HOLIDAY PARTY

THE LGBT Family Coalition in Outaouais invites you to our holiday party! Card-making workshop (parents/kids), music, potluck dinner, games, surprises for the kids.

Location : 34 rue Leduc (secteur Hull) – parking on the street

To reserve, please contact Bianca at coalitiongatineau@gmail.com

January 2013:

◆ **Wednesday, January 16th 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: Maison Parent Roback, 110 Ste Therese, Montreal, QC H2Y 1E6

◆ **Tuesday, January 22nd at 7:00 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

◆ **Wednesday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.**

MONTREAL: CONFERENCE: BROTHERS AND SISTERS: COMPLICITY AND RIVALRY

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS. **ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

Location: Maison Parent Roback, 110 Ste Therese, Montreal, QC H2Y 1E6

FEBRUARY 2013:

◆ **Tuesday, February 19th 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: Maison Parent Roback, 110 Ste Therese, Montreal, QC H2Y 1E6

◆ **Tuesday, February 26th at 7:00 p.m.**

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

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

Location: Université Laval

BULLETIN BOARD:

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

Info: margelleboisfrancis@hotmail.com

www.lamargelle.spaces.live.com 819-758-3384

◆ **Le Centre des femmes du Verdun** offre l'écoute individuelle pour lesbiennes les mercredi de 9h – 12h et un serie d'ateliers sur les relations lesbiennes saines. Pour plus d'information : 514-767-0384 ou site Web : www.centredesfemmesdeverdun.org

◆ **Dorshei Emet B'nei Mitzvah Program:** Do you have children entering grade 6? We offer a meaningful program in which children discover the relevance of their Jewish heritage. Dorshei Emet is a welcoming Synagogue to individuals and families of all backgrounds, and to interfaith and LGBTQ families. **514-486-9400 (Alys Geiger)**, www.dorshei-emet.com, or drop in anytime to Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10h00 to 12h15, and stay for a light lunch and meet some of the members!

◆ **Le Centre des femmes de Rivière-des-Prairies! 514-648-1030** - Nous sommes ouvertes aux lesbiennes! Si vous avez besoin de plus d'informations vous pouvez consulter notre site web : www.cdfrdp.qc.ca ainsi que le site de notre regroupement : www.rcentres.qc.ca/propos.html

◆ **L'Écho des femmes de la Petite Patrie** est un centre de femmes qui offre des rencontres pour lesbiennes. Ces rencontres ont lieu les lundis soirs aux deux semaines de 19h00 à 21h30, et sont animées par une personne ressource. Ces rencontres, qui se veulent un lieu d'échange, de ressourcement et d'information, s'intéressent aux réalités et aux conditions de vie des lesbiennes. Les rencontres sont en français. Un service de halte-garderie est disponible avec réservation faite une semaine à l'avance. Le centre est situé au **6032 St-Hubert (métro Beaubien)**. Téléphone (514)277-7445, télécopieur (514)277-1689

MISCELLANEOUS

◆ **Traducteurs, rédacteurs, etc.:** Nous sommes à la recherche de bénévoles pour la traduction française de ce bulletin. Toute contribution (même à raison d'une page ou deux par mois) est la bienvenue. Si vous êtes disponible, veuillez nous contacter : info@familleshomoparentales.org

♦ **Batshaw Youth and Family Centres** is encouraging English speaking and bilingual gay and lesbian couples, and singles, to consider becoming **foster parents**. There are babies, pre-schoolers and older children who are waiting for a foster home. For some the plan will be to help them return to their families. For other children, the plan will be to work toward **adoption**. What a remarkable feeling it is to know you have made a difference in the life of a child by providing a stable, safe and loving environment. For more information, please call, **Rena Rubin, Foster Care Recruiter, at 932-7161, local 416, or send an e-mail to rena_rubin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca**

♦ The **Open Book Library's** collection includes over 5500 books written by LGBT authors or by authors who write about our communities. Some of these books are for children and adolescents. We are very proud that approximately half of our collection is in French. Much more information as well as online consultation of the book collection is available at our Web site www.ccglm.org/en-b. We are located at **2075 Plessis (CCGLM)** in the Village. Come visit us! Open Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-8 p.m. (514) 528-8424.

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

The bulletin board is a free forum for members to communicate amongst each other. If you want to post an announcement in the next issue please send it to us at any time to info@familleshomoparentales.org or by post to CFH, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8. If you have something to advertise, sell, rent or buy...anything where money must change hands, you can place an ad in the newsletter. Ads cost 20 cents per word.

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♦ **THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT FINANCIAL FREEDOM - LA LIBERTÉ PERSONNELLE PASSE PAR LA LIBERTÉ FINANCIÈRE.** Financial services for individuals and small businesses: budgeting, debt management, investments, future planning, personal taxes, wealth enhancement strategies. 20% of all subsequent fees will be donated to the CFH. **J. Freed, (514) 489-8633, www.jfreed.ca**

♦ We're putting the "real" in real estate! We don't have big hair and Gucci shoes, just a down-to-earth knowledge of the market. We know how important the right home is to your family. If you're thinking of buying or selling a house or condo anywhere in the city, we can help. **Mary Lamey (514-978-6522) and Amy Barratt (514-718-6522), affiliated real estate agents and proud lesbian mums.**

♦ Photographe professionnelle pour mariages, maternité, portraits, familles. Membre de la CFH. Contactez-moi pour plus de renseignements. **Marie-Andrée Boivin 514-273-9658 marieandreeboivin@yahoo.ca**
www.maphotographe.com