



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XIII - No. IV – JUNE 2012

10th Anniversary for our Families

By Mona Greenbaum, Director, LGBT Family Coalition

Dear Léo, Simon, Georgia, Jamie, Sage, Fanny, Carl, Julien and Noah,

Ten years ago when you were all very young, we went to Quebec City for a few days. Do you remember? We stayed in a couple of hotels, not far from the National Assembly. Other than being a bunch of ‘two-mom families,’ I don’t think we stood out very much from any other families on vacation there. I remember we had a lot of fun in the indoor swimming pool that connected to the outside through a “cat-flap”. We said ‘meow’ each time we swam through. Perhaps this is the part of that trip that you remember the most.

Before we left, we, the parents, made sure that we packed your best clothes. It was going to be, we hoped, a very special occasion and so we wanted you to look nice.

Do you remember that Friday morning? We were all a bit (okay, a lot) nervous. As we were leaving our hotel room, Simon, you must have sensed the tension, because at the moment you decided to rebel and refused to wear the suit and tie we had dressed you in. Okay, Plan B.

Of course we arrived at the National Assembly too early. We had some time to kill and so we took photos of you in front of the government buildings. Then we went in and were checked by the security guards. Even you were frisked, and the rubber frogs and snakes we had brought for you to play with were promptly confiscated. No toys in the National Assembly and especially not on the day of a big vote. And yet you were going to have to be very quiet and well behaved.

In fact you didn’t know it at the time, but history was about to be made and for this very special occasion, with a little arm-twisting we had managed to convince them that “the kids must be present.”

So we found ourselves in the lobby and then in the balconies of the beautiful grand room of the National Assembly. 13 adults and 9 kids. Because we had no toys and you were all extremely young (Jamie and Fanny at 6 being the eldest, Carl still a baby), we were so relieved to see that the headsets (for simultaneous translation) were a great source of amusement. They kept you busy for quite some time. And what a relief, because we were worried. What if one of you started crying or having a temper tantrum? Would we be evicted and miss this important moment?

Amazingly you were all little angels. Perhaps you understood, at some level, that something that we had all invested so much time, energy and emotion into was about to become real.

In my memory, it all happened really quietly...is it possible? Or was it just one of those intense moments where everything else gets drowned out and you focus completely on what’s happening. All I remember is watching all those deputies rising, one at a time, all in favour, without exception, of this law that would change the legal status of our families forever.

As you know, when you were born you only had one legal parent. And you only had one family name. Many of you now carry long hyphenated run-off-the-page names, but this name change that you went through,

without much fuss at all, has some significance both on the personal and the social level. On June 7th 2002 you went from having one legal parent to having two. And Quebec became the most progressive place in the world for families with same-sex parents.

Life having two mothers or two fathers is not always that easy, as you know. The 3 young adults who testified in February 2002 in the National Assembly during the public consultations made that clear. In fact hearing their testimonies was the turning point of our battle to gain rights. And even though the laws of Quebec now support and recognize our kind of families, there is still much work to be done. Changing attitudes is harder than changing laws. I know you've all experienced your own difficulties because of this as well.

All of us parents consider ourselves very lucky, on a personal level, to have played a role in changing our society. To put together this book and exhibit I went through a huge amount of newspapers, magazines, books, memos and souvenirs that I've collected over the past 15 years and what I kept realizing over and over again is how social change comes as the result not of the work of one or two "stars" or "leaders" but of hundreds and hundreds of people who make those small efforts every day. Each of these efforts has paved the way to the changes we saw and are still seeing.

You too have contributed so much to these changes. When you were small, you were photographed numerous times for newspapers and magazines because we were told that sensitizing the public would guarantee the support of our elected officials. Your presence in the National Assembly that day also helped of course. You made it clear to the deputies down below that they were not voting on abstract notions.

As you got older you contributed by responding to the homophobia around you: "What do you mean my hat is gay?? Is it in a relationship with a same-sex person?" "Am I worried I will turn out gay? Why would being gay be a worry?" And you've helped our society to evolve every day just by being yourselves, knowing that there is nothing wrong with your family but that it is prejudice that is wrong, and simply by living your lives.

You should be extremely proud to have participated in a very important moment in history and to live in the most progressive place in the world for people in same-sex relationships. And I'm so proud of you to see the incredible adults that you are growing up to be.

Love Mona (mom)

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 May 2012

Quebec News

February 15 2012 - The Quebec government has finally responded to numerous testimonies of bullied youth, by tabling a bill requiring school boards to have each school implement an anti-bullying plan involving community agencies and local police. The public's attention had been recently drawn to this issue following the suicide of Marjorie Raymond, 15, who lived in the Gaspé region, after being persistently bullied at school. The legislation, if passed, would require schools to appoint a person on staff to oversee the implementation of the plan and table an annual report. School principals will have the authority to expel repeat offenders. School boards that fail to comply would be fined.

Education Minister Line Beauchamps announced that school boards would not get new funds to do so, arguing that since 2008 the government has given them \$6-million to fight bullying. Quebec will spend another \$1-million over three years for ads and media campaigns. But she clearly pointed a finger at some

school boards that have failed to deal with the issue. But without additional funding, the schools will remain helpless to intervene, according to Parti Québécois education critic Sylvain Gaudreault.

Despite the fact that Quebec recently launched an action plan against homophobia, the draft legislation fails to specifically address homophobic bullying.

The LGBT Family Coalition collaborated with the Conseil québécois des gais et lesbiennes to submit a brief in the National Assembly regarding the draft legislation. Steve Foster, president of the CQGL presented the brief in March.

Canada News

February 16, 2012 - The Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism has introduced Bill C-31, the *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act*. The proposed Act would amend the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, the *Balanced Refugee Reform Act*, the *Marine Transportation Security Act* and the *Department of Citizenship and Immigration Act*. The effects of these amendments may be significant for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans refugee claimants.

Under the proposed legislation, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will have the power to designate a country as a "safe country of origin." Originally, this designation was to be subject to a positive recommendation from a panel of experts. However, the proposed changes remove the requirement that a panel make a positive recommendation and leave that determination solely to the Minister.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community stands to be disproportionately affected by the proposed changes because some of the countries that produce the largest number of claims based on sexual orientation will undoubtedly be considered safe. Mexico, for instance, has come under fire for producing high numbers of bogus refugee claims and will likely be determined a safe country. However, in recent years Mexico represents the largest number of claims brought before the IRB that were based on sexual orientation. The same is true of Costa Rica.

February 20, 2012 - Just how effective school and community programs are in reducing homophobic bullying of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) – and straight – youth is the focus of a \$2-million, five-year study led by Prof. Elizabeth Saewyc at the University of British Columbia. The study, which will continue through 2016, is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). To date, it is the agency's single largest investment aimed at improving health and school outcomes for sexual minority youth.

"We know from previous research how common stigma and anti-gay bullying is in schools across Canada, and the health problems such violence can lead to," says Saewyc, professor of nursing and adolescent medicine at UBC's School of Nursing.

"Homophobia can affect anyone," explains Saewyc. "In any high school, there are far more heterosexual teens than lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning teens, and because of this, we have found half or more of those targeted for anti-gay harassment actually identify as straight.

March 4, 2012 - Since his younger brother Brendan became one of the most prominent gay figures in North American sports, Patrick Burke has made frequent outreach efforts to athletic teams and organizations about ending homophobia in sports. After he and his family members — including father Brian Burke, the GM of the Toronto Maple Leafs — were done speaking, they would invariably be asked the same question by coaches and players: What do we do next?

“We wanted to formalize it, to say to players and coaches and administrators: *Here* is what you do to make sure your locker room’s safe, and your teammates feel welcome,” said Patrick. Those efforts culminated with the announcement of the “You Can Play” movement, an effort backed by several NHL A-listers and dedicated to purging sports locker rooms of homophobia and discrimination.

About three-dozen prominent hockey players have signed on, a group Patrick Burke says would form “an easy Stanley Cup winner.” The players’ public support began with a public service announcement that aired during the first intermission of a Bruins-Rangers broadcast on NBC, featuring eight NHL stars, including New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist. That video and others are posted at YouCanPlayProject.org, which also includes resources for straight and gay players, coaches and fans.

April 3, 2012 - A woman who was ousted from the Miss Universe competition because she is transgender has been allowed back into the competition if she can prove she meets the requirements for gender recognition by Canadian authorities. Jenna Talackova, 23, had been ejected from the contest after it emerged that she had undergone gender reassignment surgery and was, organisers said, not a “naturally born female” as she had indicated on forms. Ms Talackova began hormone therapy when she was 14, and underwent surgical reassignment five years later.

The Miss Universe Organization said in a statement: “The Miss Universe Organization will allow Jenna Talackova to compete in the 2012 Miss Universe Canada pageant provided she meets the legal gender recognition requirements of Canada, and the standards established by other international competitions.”

Questions over whether Ms Talackova will meet the legal requirements abroad remain.

April 16 2012 - The leader of Alberta’s provincial Wildrose Party, Danielle Smith, was put under pressure to sack one of her candidates, after one of his blogs from last year was discovered, where he said homosexuals are deemed to spend an eternity in hell. The controversy came days after Ms Smith, to the surprise of most of her rivals and opponents, said she was “pro-gay marriage” and “pro-choice.”

The comments came from Allan Hunsperger, a candidate for Edmonton, who had said that public schools in the province were godless and that “gays will burn in hell.”

Ms Smith said that she was bewildered by the controversy, but said that while all are expected to follow party policy, she wouldn’t interfere with members from having their own views. Opponents however were quick to condemn the remarks. Premier Alison Redford, for example, suggested that these comments might represent beliefs within the party itself.

In the end the Wild Rose Party lost the election despite surveys carried out just days before the election, which projected a win. In most news articles it was suggested that people veered away from the party because of the ultra conservative social values of its candidates. Polling data however suggested that Danielle Smith seriously alienated her natural base of social conservative and religious voters when she began to publicly reject pro-life and pro-family views in early April and ultimately announced, “I’m pro-choice and pro-gay marriage” on April 10th. It was a slap in the face to traditional values voters.

Gay Marriage News

February 14 - Of the more than 500 couples who queue up at **Beijing’s** Chaoyang district marriage registration centre to get hitched on Valentine’s Day, two couples are turned down by centre officials and walk away without marriage licenses. The two same-sex couples – one male, and one female – had shown up at the marriage office as part of a Valentine’s Day campaign by the Beijing LGBT Centre to drum up support for gay marriage in China.

The four individuals, not boyfriends and girlfriends in real life, arrived at the marriage office in the morning with all the necessary paperwork, and were surprised to be turned away rather politely by centre employees. "I thought we'd be driven out, but to my surprise, the office employees were very nice when they heard we wanted gay marriage," says Zhang Yunyi, one of the participants.

Undeterred, the two couples hold their own "wedding ceremony" outside the registration office anyway, proudly displaying marriage certificates they had made themselves.

February 29 - An imam blesses the union of a same-sex Muslim couple in **France**. Ludovic Zahed Mohamed and his partner Qiyam al-Din Qiyam are not allowed to get legally married in France, but they still receive the blessing of the imam in the mosque of Sevran. The union follows exactly the same rites that are performed at the marriage of heterosexual couples.

March 2 - **Maryland** becomes the eighth state in America to agree to allow gay couples to marry. It will take effect in 2013. **Washington** state's equal marriage laws passed earlier this year are scheduled to come into effect this summer.

March 11 - Catholics are urged to protect the "true meaning" of matrimony as the Catholic Church steps up its campaign against the **British** government's plans for gay marriage. A letter from two senior archbishops is read in 2,500 parish churches during mass, arguing that the change would reduce the significance of marriage.

March 14 - **Denmark's** prime minister announces that equal marriage laws will come into effect on June 15th this year. At a press conference, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, who took office in October last year, says: "We have looked at two laws that will provide the gay and lesbian community the opportunity to get married in the church and at city hall.

Denmark was the first country in the world to legalise same-sex unions, in 1989, and acts of homosexuality were decriminalised in 1933.

April 2 - Five married couples, wherein one partner has a non-US nationality, file suit in **New York** against the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), arguing that it denies gay men and lesbians the right for permanent residence, as it is available to heterosexual couples, thereby violating equal protection under the constitution.

The case, lodged by Immigration Equality, is part of a host of anti-DOMA suits that have been filed across courts throughout the United States, ultimately expected to land in the Supreme Court over the course of the next few years.

April 6 - **Argentina**, which extended the definition of marriage in 2010 to include same-sex couples, and was the first country in Latin America to do so, may make it legal for gay foreigners to get married on their soil, and in **Buenos Aires**, in particular.

May 9 - Barack Obama, the president of the **United States**, announces in an interview with ABC News that he thinks gay couples should have the same legal right to marry as heterosexual couples. Speaking about his own children President Obama says, "You know, Malia and Sasha, they have friends whose parents are same-sex couples. There have been times where Michelle and I have been sitting around the dinner table and we're talking about their friends and their parents and Malia and Sasha, it wouldn't dawn on them that somehow their friends' parents would be treated differently. It doesn't make sense to them and frankly, that's the kind of thing that prompts a change in perspective."

With this statement, Obama becomes the first sitting U.S. president to endorse same-sex marriage.

May 10 – Voters in **North Carolina** have approved a constitutional amendment to prohibit same-sex marriage.

International News

March 13 (Pink News) St Petersburg's governor has signed into law a bill making it an offence to 'promote' gay or transgender personal identities with commentators fearing how badly it will 'encourage hate' towards the city's gay, bi and trans people. St Petersburg is one of four **Russian** cities to have introduced a law banning the promotion of gay and trans identities among minors.

Polina Savchenko, general manager for *ComingOut*, a St. Petersburg-based LGBT organization said: "Authorities project 'traditional values' and clerical rhetoric onto politics, and prioritize 'interests of majority' over the value of human individuality. We realize that today, fascist-like rhetoric in Russia is becoming basis for legislative activity.

In fact, this law has little to do with protecting minors. Today, neither homosexual people, nor human rights defenders, nor lawyers can answer the question of how this law is going to be applied in practice, due to its vague nature and non-legal terminology.

March 16 (Pink News) Following violence and economic concerns in the African state, the European Parliament has adopted a resolution on **Nigeria**, which condemns in part the current legal threats to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens. Nigeria's Same Gender Marriage Prohibition Bill was proposed in 2011, and has since been amended by the Nigerian Senate to punish those in a same-sex union with 14 years' imprisonment, and anyone 'aiding or abetting' such unions with 10 years in prison.

The Parliament said in addition to locals, tourists and aid workers in a same-sex marriage or civil partnership are at risk of arrest and prosecution, those working in embassies but without diplomatic protection will also be subject to prosecution.

The European Parliament is calling on the Nigerian Parliament to reject the 'Same Gender Marriage Prohibition Bill' which, if passed, would put LGBT people – both Nigerian nationals and foreigners – at serious risk of violence and arrest.

March 16 (IGLHRC News) The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have demanded that the government of **Iraq** immediately investigate and bring to justice those responsible for a targeted campaign of intimidation and violence against Iraqi youth seen as belonging to the non-conformist "emo" subculture. The attacks have created an atmosphere of terror among those who see themselves as potential victims.

On March 8, 2012, the Iraqi Interior Ministry, in an official statement, dismissed reports by local activists and media of a campaign against those seen as emo. The ministry said the reports were "fabricated" and "groundless," and that it would take action against people who were trying "to highlight this issue and build it out of proportion." An official ministry statement, on February 13, that characterized emo culture as "Satanist" cast doubt on the government's willingness to protect vulnerable youth, the international rights groups said.

The victims appear to represent a cross-section of people seen locally as non-conformists. They include people suspected of homosexual conduct, but also people with distinctive hairstyles, clothes, or musical taste. In English, "emo" is short for "emotional," referring to self-identified teens and young adults who listen to alternative rock music, often dress in black, close-fitting clothes, and cut their hair in unconventional ways. People perceived to be gay, lesbian, transgender or effeminate are particularly vulnerable.

People perceived to be gay, lesbian, transgender and effeminate men told the rights groups that they feel particularly vulnerable. On March 15 the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, a non-profit organization that provides legal assistance and safe passage to Iraqis facing severe persecution, told the international rights groups that in the past week it had conducted interviews with 23 young Iraqis, most of whom had cut their hair short and were in hiding after receiving death threats and harassment because they were perceived to belong to the emo or LGBT communities. The interviewees also reported that 10 others perceived to be in those communities had been killed since mid-February.

March 19 (*The Telegraph*) The **European Court of Human Rights** has ruled against a lesbian couple from France who were seeking to jointly adopt a child one of them had conceived. Valérie Gas and Nathalie Dubois had a child through artificial insemination in Belgium but the law in their native **France** forbids unmarried couples from jointly adopting a child. Mme Dubois will continue to be recognised as the girl's biological mother but her partner will not as the Court ruled that this law applies equally to gay and straight couples.

France's Civil Solidarity Pacts, or PACS as they are usually known, confer some domestic partnership rights, but fewer than a marriage would. Crucially in this case, the system is open to both gay and straight couples who are equally barred from adoption while in a PACS.

Though a straight couple in France can marry if they choose and thus become eligible for adoption whereas a gay couple cannot, the Court ruled that there was no right to a gay marriage.

March 23 (*ILGA News*) A gay judge has won a custody case against the **Chilean** courts, which had taken away her three daughters in 2004 believing her sexuality to put their development 'at risk'.

As the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the ultimate adjudicator for the Americas, deciding cases in accordance with the American Convention on Human Rights, it marks the end of eight years of legal battles for Karen Atala.

The Court criticised the decision by Chile's Supreme Court to uphold an order removing Ms Atala's children from her and giving their father custody because of Ms Atala's sexual orientation. Chile's Supreme Court had ruled that the girls were in a "position of risk" and could become "objects of social discrimination" and have hindered "psychic development" by living with the judge and her female partner.

March 27 (*BBC News*) The Supreme Court of **India** has reserved a verdict concerning a batch of appeals that challenged the Delhi High Court ruling decriminalising gay sex between consenting adults. The marathon hearing, under the bench of justices GS Singhvi and SJ Mukhopadhaya, began on February 15 and has drawn widespread media attention, both inside India and out.

The federal government came in for sharp criticism from the Court, having changed its position twice over the case, though in the end, the Attorney General confirmed that there would not be any appeal on their side against the verdict. He said that "insofar as it criminalises consensual sexual acts of adults in private [before it was struck down by the High Court] was imposed upon Indian society due to the moral views of the British rulers.

Several parents and relatives of sexual minorities testified in the court, asking that the original verdict not be overturned, as it would interfere with their right to life and liberty guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. However, all the major religious groups of India have strongly opposed the judgement, as have the Hindu-nationalist party, the BJP, and the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

April 2 (*Intergroup on LGBT Rights*) The European Parliament has adopted its annual enlargement progress reports for **Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo**. All the resolutions recommended greater protection for gay, bi and transgender citizens in the potential new member states.

Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro are official candidates to join the EU, and Kosovo is currently considered a potential candidate. Turkey is still being urged “to ensure that equality, regardless of gender, gender identity, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, is guaranteed by the law and effectively enforced, including respect by the police”.

The Parliament also asked that homophobia and transphobia be included in hate crime law, condemned prosecutions against LGBT people and asked that Turkish Armed Forces cease to classify homosexuality as a ‘psychosexual illness’.

The resolution on Serbia includes extensive references to LGBT rights. Notably, the Parliament expresses serious concern about “the lack of political will [...] to ensure the safety of the participants of the Pride Parade” in 2011 which was cancelled by police. It also “strongly condemns inflammatory and discriminatory remarks on the topic by some politicians and members of the Orthodox clergy.”

The resolution on Montenegro, however, highlights positive developments in the country, and “welcomes the recent adoption of the Law Against Discrimination, which explicitly mentions sexual orientation and gender identity”.

Finally, the resolution on Kosovo says that “discrimination is still a serious problem in the country, and calls on the Government to implement a broad anti-discrimination strategy” on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

Ulrike Lunacek MEP, Rapporteur for the integration process of Kosovo and Co-president of the LGBT Intergroup at the European Parliament, added: “These accession reports show the European Union is more committed than ever to the respect of fundamental rights, regardless of people’s sexual orientation and gender identity. Now the Commission must take note of these recommendations, and closely monitor developments for LGBT rights in 2012.

April 5 (Huffington Post) A week after the death of Daniel Zamudio, a **Chilean** gay man who had been the victim of a brutal and sustained attack, the country’s Congress has narrowly approved most of the provisions of a bill which would protect citizens against discrimination. The Chamber of Deputies held a minute’s silence for Mr Zamudio before approving most of a bill making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender and disability.

A week earlier, thousands attended the funeral of Mr Zamudio, who died from injuries sustained in an attack for which four men, who are believed to be members of a neo-Nazi group were arrested. Daniel Zamudio, who was 24, died from his injuries twenty-five days after his attack on March 3. He had suffered a six-hour ordeal at the hands of his captors, and pictures released by his family showed that he had been beaten in the head, burned with cigarettes, and scarred with Nazi symbols and slogans.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JUNE AND JULY 2012:

◆ **SATURDAY JUNE 9TH STARTING AT 10:30 A.M.**

CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION: ÉVOLUTION DES DROITS DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ LGBT AU QUÉBEC : FÊTER NOTRE HISTOIRE, RÊVER LE FUTUR (MONTRÉAL)

A special event to mark the 10th anniversary of Quebec’s legal recognition of same-sex couples and families with gay and lesbian parents.

◆ **Saturday JUNE 16th beginning at 11:00 a.m.**
PICNIC AT THE PARC BOIS-DE-COULONGE IN QUÉBEC 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 contact Jeanne at ilagabrielle@gmail.com or (418) 271-2595

◆ **SATURDAY JUNE 30TH TO MONDAY JULY 2ND**
PICNIC, BEACH AND CAMPING AT THE LAC SIMON TOURIST CENTRE – SEPAQ

Saturday – 11:30 a.m. – meeting place: visitors' parking

Public Beach \$: Bring your cooler with lunch, umbrella and sunscreen

Option of reservation for camping \$ - on line (sector E) – space is limited!

Animation, mini-golf, baseball field and children's park

Informations: http://www.sepaq.com/ct/sim/index.dot?language_id=2

For all questions about the activity or to sign up, please contact Bianca at coalitiongatineau@gmail.com

◆ **THURSDAY JUNE 28TH TO MONDAY JULY 2ND**
CAMPING AND BEACH DAY (JUNE 30TH) AT YAMASKA PARK

Activities : beach, marshmallows on the campfire, nature discovery activities for children and adults, hiking, cycling and water sports. Possibility to rent bikes, canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, rabaska, bicycle trailers for children and life jackets.

For all questions about the activity or to sign up, please contact Émilie at 514-768-8537 or ejouvin@hotmail.com

AUGUST 2012 – PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

◆ **SATURDAY AUGUST 18TH and SUNDAY AUGUST 19TH**
COMMUNITY DAY AND PRIDE PARADE

N.B.: The Pride Parade and Community Day have been scheduled for the weekend of August 18th and 19th. Please reserve this date in your calendars. We will give you an update on this in the weeks to come!

BULLETIN BOARD:

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

Info: margelleboisfrancis@hotmail.com

www.lamargelle.spaces.live.com

819-758-3384

◆ **Dorshei Emet B'nei Mitzvah Program:** Do you have children entering grade 6? We offer a meaningful program in which children discover the relevance of their Jewish heritage. Dorshei Emet is a welcoming Synagogue to individuals and families of all backgrounds, and to interfaith and LGBTQ families. **514-486-**

9400 (Alys Geiger), www.dorshei-emet, 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.

.....
♦ **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.ifreed.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