



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XIII - No. III – March 2012

Transsexual Parents

By Marie-Pier Petit, PhD Candidate, UQAM

I'm a PhD student in psychology and when I tell my friends, my classmates or even some of my teachers that my thesis topic is about transsexual and transgendered parents, the reaction is almost always the same: "What? That exists?" Trans parents are, for the most part, invisible to the eyes of the general public. They are also practically unknown within the community of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and even amongst trans people themselves. Their invisibility is similar to that lived by the first generation of lesbian mothers and gay fathers in the 70s, 80s and 90s in Western society. In fact, the reality of trans parents has been overshadowed by health issues and other debates about transsexuality that were widespread in the LGBT community, like HIV, the question of psychiatric labelling (or not) and the medical issues around the transitioning process itself. For a long time it was thought (and some still continue to think) that having a non-heterosexual sexual orientation and/ or identifying as transsexual was incompatible with the desire to parent, as parenthood was a privilege reserved for heterosexuals. A child "should" be conceived "naturally", that is to say, in the context of a heterosexual relationship and raised by a non-trans mother and father.

The children of the first generation of homoparental or transparental families were conceived in heterosexual, non-trans families, after which at least one parent eventually came to self-identify as LGB or T. The interest for researchers, with respect to this reality, was to study the social, cognitive and emotional development of children in these family configurations. Were children raised by at least one LGBT parent more at risk than kids with heterosexual non-trans parents to have psychological difficulties or problems at school? Were they more likely to turn out gay or trans? Do LGBT parents have the same parental capacity as other parents? The result of the majority of studies is that children in these two types of families do just as well as children with hetero non-trans parents and that LGBT parents have the same parental capacity as other parents. There are far fewer studies, however, looking specifically at the children of trans parents and some of the studies that do exist have methodological problems (for example: too few families studied).

Clinical observations cited anger (for example: feelings of betrayal) felt by the family entourage, principally the spouses, when one in the couple decides, after having had children, to assume an LGB or T identity. If the announcement of homosexuality leads almost inevitably to divorce (or break up), the announcement of a trans identity does not necessarily predict separation. American research shows that in the case of 6436 trans or gender non-conforming individuals in only about half the cases did the announcement lead the couple to split. Also, trans parents often have the fear – whether real or perceived – that their "coming out" will lead to the loss of custody of their children. These fears were at one point real for gay and lesbian parents as well. Almost one ex-spouse in three has attempted to limit the children's contact with the trans parent. Recent studies have shown that divorce in these families, when occurring in a climate of disrespect and stress, has a negative impact on children's subsequent psychological adaptation.

For couples that decide to stay together after the partner announces his or her trans-identity, the children must learn to deal, on a daily basis, with changes in the appearance and manner of dressing of the trans parent. They must also learn to use the right pronouns (ex. 'she' instead of 'he') and a new first name that reflects the parent's assumed identity. The same goes for the parental role. Although some trans parents want to continue to live the same parental role (maternal or paternal) as before the transition, others will find various ways to take into account their parental role as well as their changed identity. For example they might

take on a new name like “Dad-She” or “Charles-mom”, according to what the different family members agree upon and what the child understands of the parent’s transition.

These families will also experience the altered view of others (extended family, friends, neighbours, school staff, strangers, etc.). Whereas before they were seen as a heterosexual couple, they are now perceived as a homoparental family. As with gay and lesbian parents, trans parents (and by association their partners and children) are vulnerable to being discriminated against and victimised because their family configuration is outside of the norm of the traditional father/mother constellation. Families with trans parents are not only at risk to experience homophobia, but may also experience acts of transphobia because trans people are seen as transgressing traditional gender roles. It should be noted that gay and lesbian parents that transgress these gender norms (for example a woman who is judged to be too masculine or a man who is seen as being too feminine) without even self-identifying as being trans, can also become the victims of discrimination based on gender expression.

While some homoparental and transparental families form in the context of a (ex-) heterosexual relationship, others form as the result of a parental project in the context of established LGBT identities. One of the difficulties for trans parents that want to start a family lies in the fact that, in Quebec, in order to change the name and gender on personal identity papers (birth certificate, Medicare card, driver’s license, etc) a trans person is legally obligated to undergo sexual reassignment surgery (i.e. their genital organs must match their assumed gender). These surgeries result in an enforced sterilization and so trans people must mourn the possibility of a biological link with their offspring. Nevertheless, not all trans people want to (or are able to, for health, financial or other reasons) surgically modify their reproductive organs. Also, trans people that are born male can decide, before transitioning, to freeze and store their sperm, for future use with a non-trans female partner. Even if this idea, medically called cryopreservation, may sound highly unusual, it is often used with men who are diagnosed with cancer when there is a risk that chemotherapy will render them sterile. People who are transitioning know about this option and unfortunately medical professionals often fail to suggest the possibility that trans people might want to start a family post-transition. Equally, there have been stories, recently in the news, of pregnant trans men (born female) who conceived and carried children to term. Other trans people prefer the idea of adoption or donor insemination, according to the composition of their couple.

For over forty years the gay and lesbian community have fought to have their rights recognized and their realities known. Their battles have lead, notably in Quebec, to: the decriminalization of homosexuality in 1969, the retraction of homosexuality from the list of mental disorders in 1973, the amendment of Quebec’s Charter of Human Rights to include sexual orientation in 1977, the legal recognition of homoparental families in 2002 and the possibility for same-sex couples to marry in 2005. On their side, the trans community have just started to work on the legal front. For example, in the slated legislation, Bill C-389, the trans community is attempting to have gender identity and expression included in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as in the criminal code, as a prohibited motif for discrimination. They are also fighting to have the strict rules regarding legal name and gender change in Quebec revised so that sterilisation is not enforced. Finally, some would like gender identity to be removed as a psychiatric diagnosis.

The social sciences are just starting to document trans-parent families, whereas gay and lesbian families can benefit from over 40 years of scientific research. In addition, gay and lesbian parents (and their children) have also benefited from the LGBT Family Coalition. Not only has the Coalition come to the aid of thousands of gay and lesbian parents and future parents over the past 14 years, but they also offer workshops to professionals who work with families to sensitize them to the realities of homoparental families so that they can better adapt their services to the needs of these families. In this optic, the director of the LGBT Family Coalition explained the goal of the group’s board to better represent and support families with trans parents and future parents in the activities and actions of the Coalition. The goal is not to submerge the “cause” of homoparental families to the “cause” of trans families, nor to create a hierarchy of importance in the work toward the legal and social recognition of these two types of families. The idea is rather to recognize the common cause of the LGBT community’s fight against the transphobia and homophobia that we all experience, while understanding at the same time the specificities of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans

communities. The Coalition has brought homoparental families to the forefront and in doing so these families have seen a greater social acceptance. It can do the same for trans-parent families.

If you would like to continue your reflection on trans families, you might want to participate in the Coalition's conference on trans parents that will take place on March 13th.

You can also watch the video of a trans man:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S28L8TV4Py8>

Or read the blog of a trans woman:
http://www.momlogic.com/2009/10/transgender_transformation_how_daddy_became_mommy.php

A short resumé of the scientific studies about trans-parenting (principally about child development and divorce) can be found at: http://www.fira.ca/cms/documents/168/when_dad_becomes_mom.pdf

And a guide for children with trans parents:
<http://www.colage.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/KOT-Resource-Guide-Draft-2.pdf>

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 2011 - February 2012

Quebec News

November 21, 2011 - Quebec's provincial government has given \$475,000 to the Université du Québec à Montréal to launch a research chair on homophobia. The announcement was made at the Écomusée du Fier Monde de Montréal, before a gathering of LGBT activists, researchers, academics and government representatives involved in the fight against homophobia.

The ceremony was attended by Premier Jean Charest and Justice Minister Jean-Marc Fournier, who is responsible for tackling homophobia. Fournier told the Canadian Press: "The most recent statistics paint an alarming portrait. Homosexual people are almost three times as likely to become victims of a violent crime as heterosexuals.

UQAM has the honour of housing the first-ever university-based research chair dedicated to the study of homophobia. The university's sexology department will study how homophobia affects LGBT health in an attempt to help create more effective policy and social justice programs.

Line Chamberland, who will be first to take up the post is a professor in the Department of Sexology at UQAM. She is excited about the new post and says it will allow her to bring key players together to look at the effects of homophobia on mental, physical and sexual well-being.

January 3, 2012 -The birth of the first baby of the year for the Mauricie region has put the focus on a reality that up to now has been invisible in the region. In fact, little Élémi^a who was born at 6:30 p.m. on January 1st has two mothers: Stéphanie Marchand and Geneviève Lessard, who hope that their story will inspire other same-sex couples to start a family.

“We encourage others to start a family,” indicated Stéphanie to a journalist from the *Echo de Shawinigan*. “They shouldn’t deny their dream just because they are gay. Everyone has the right.” The mothers are convinced that by speaking about their family attitudes will change.

Canada News

January 16, 2012 - Justice Minister Rob Nicholson has reassured thousands of gay couples who have married in Canada that their unions will still be recognised, but admitted there is a “legislative gap” in the rules on foreign nationals’ marriages. A furore erupted a week earlier after a federal lawyer responded to a lesbian couple’s divorce application appearing to say that since they could not marry in their home countries, Canadian law did not actually recognise their marriage.

Up to 5,000 marriages were thrown into doubt by the document regarding the marriage between a British and an American woman who were seemingly unable to divorce.

Now, the government has said it will ensure gay marriages held in Canada will be recognised by Canada, regardless of a couple’s home countries’ laws. Nicholson, told Reuters: “We will change the Civil Marriage Act so that any marriages performed in Canada that aren’t recognised in the couple’s home jurisdiction will be recognised in Canada.

The question arose because Canada’s Divorce Act requires couples to have lived there for a year and to have a valid union in their own countries if they are seeking divorce in Canada.

The gay couple’s lawyer, Martha McCarthy, who played a role in the original equal marriage laws, had said Canada should introduce a law similar to one passed in California that meant when overseas gay couples were granted the right to marry in the state, they were also allowed to divorce there. She warned this would require legislative action.

In announcing the measures to protect overseas gay marriages, Nicholson denied claims the loophole had been part of an attempt to undermine equal marriage rights. He said: “I want to be very clear that our government has no intention of reopening the debate on the definition of marriage. Both myself and the Prime Minister consider this debate to be closed.”

January 31st 2012 - New rules from Transport Canada, introduced last July, but only now coming to light, state that an air carrier “shall not transport a passenger if ... the passenger does not appear to be of the gender indicated on the identification he or she presents”.

The reason that it has taken so long for this provision to percolate through to public awareness is that it was introduced not through formal legislation before the Canadian legislature, but as part of “Identity Screening Regulations”, implemented unilaterally by the Ministry of Transportation, in support of Canada’s so-called Passenger Protect programme.

Its impact will be felt first by members of the Canadian transgender community, who may only change the ‘sex’ designation on a Canadian Passport, on provision of proof that surgery has taken place, or will take place within one year. This, it is argued by blogger, Christin Scarlett Milloy, means that non-operative transgender persons, gender nonconforming (genderqueer) persons, and the vast majority of pre-operative transsexual persons will find it literally impossible to obtain “proper” travel documentation.

On **February 9th** NDP MP Olivia Chow's attempted to repeal this screening regulation that would prevent trans Canadians from flying, but the Commons transport committee voted six to five to reject Chow's motion.

Gay Marriage News

November 29, 2011 - The **Nigerian** Senate votes to criminalise same-sex marriages and civil unions, with penalties of up to 14 years jail for participants and 10 years jail for anyone who helps or witnesses such a marriage or union. The senate also bans public displays of affection between homosexual couples.

December 5, 2011 - *GetUp* and **Australian Marriage Equality** present a massive pro-marriage equality petition of over 140,000 signatures to the Labor Party National Conference.

December 9, 2011 - The **Scottish** government, led by the Scottish National Party, concludes public consultation on equal marriage. It is the government's largest ever public consultation, with over 50,000 responses. The government will now analyse the feedback and publish their response in the spring along with a draft bill, which will be open for expert consultation. The bill is expected to pass as law by the end of 2013.

January 1, 2012 – **Hungary's** new constitution, which bans gay marriage and does not explicitly protect gay people from discrimination, comes into force amid public unrest. The document specifically restricts marriage to straight couples and appears to ban abortion by saying that fetuses will be protected from conception onwards.

January 9, 2012 - Pope Benedict XVI says that allowing gay couples equal marriage rights could threaten the future of humanity. The comment formed part of an address to a meeting of 180 diplomats at the **Vatican**. According to *Reuters*, the pontiff said, "Pride of place goes to the family, based on the marriage of a man and a woman" when discussing appropriate "settings" for children. Of straight marriage, he said: "This is not a simple social convention, but rather the fundamental cell of every society. "Consequently, policies which undermine the family threaten human dignity and the future of humanity itself."

January 11, 2012 - The first gay character in the Archie Comic books world, Kevin Keller, marries his male partner in the latest issue. In the storyline, in *Life With Archie #16*, Kevin returns to Riverside as an adult after serving in the Army and eventually ties the knot with Clay Walker. Kevin first appeared in the Veronica series last fall.

January 18, 2012 – Mariela Castor, daughter of **Cuban** President, Raul Castro and the director of the National Sex Education Centre told *Cuba Si* that Justice Minister Maria Esther Reus has announced that, the country's lawmakers will consider legalizing same-sex civil unions this year.

January 27, 2012 - Starting in February, gay **Australians** will be able to receive certificates allowing them to enter into gay marriages abroad. The permits, known as Certificates of No Impediment, are required by some countries before a couple can marry. Australian Marriage Equality activist, Alex Greenwich, said: "The real problem remains the failure of parliament to allow same-sex marriages in Australia, but the removal of the CNI ban will ease the burden on same-sex couples who are forced overseas to marry.

February 7, 2012 - A **U.S.** federal appeals court declares **California's** same-sex marriage ban to be unconstitutional, putting the bitterly contested, voter-approved law on track for a likely appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals rules that a lower court judge correctly interpreted the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedents when he declared in 2010 that Proposition 8 was a violation of the civil rights of gays and lesbians.

However, the appeals court says that gay marriages cannot resume in the state until the deadline passes for Proposition 8 sponsors to appeal to a larger panel of the 9th Circuit. If such an appeal is filed, gay marriages will remain on hold until it's resolved.

February 8, 2012 - The state of **Washington's** House of Representatives has passed a bill to introduce gay marriage. The state's senate has already approved the measure which is also supported by the state governor. The law would take effect 90 days after the governor Christine Gregoire signs the bill. But opponents have vowed to fight gay marriage with a ballot measure, similar to California's Proposition 8 that would give voters the opportunity to overturn pro-gay legislation.

International News

December 6, 2011 (*Los Angeles Times*) Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on world leaders for the first time to stop discrimination against gays and lesbians, announcing that the United States would use diplomacy and \$3 million in aid to help expand the rights of gay people around the world.

In a speech to mark Human Rights Day, Clinton declared that protecting the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people is "now one of the remaining human rights challenges of our time" and compared it to the battles for women's rights, racial equality and religious freedom.

Speaking at the United Nations' human rights body in Geneva, she noted that obstacles to gender equality in much of the world "rest on deeply held personal, political, cultural and religious beliefs."

"Some seem to believe it is a Western phenomenon, and therefore people outside the West have grounds to reject it," Clinton said. "Well, in reality, gay people are born into and belong to every society in the world."

She challenged other governments to join U.S. efforts against gender discrimination hours after President Obama directed U.S. agencies working overseas to help combat the criminalization of sexual orientation and to enhance efforts to protect gay and lesbian refugees and asylum seekers.

Clinton likened the religious and cultural explanations for abuse of gays to the reasons given to justify "honor killings, widow burning or female genital mutilation."

"Some people still defend those practices as part of a cultural tradition," Clinton said. "But violence toward women isn't cultural. It's criminal. Likewise with slavery; what was once justified as sanctioned by God is now properly reviled as an unconscionable violation of human rights."

For transcript and video of this speech:

<http://www.dallasvoice.com/transcript-secretary-state-hillary-clintons-speech-today-lgbt-rights-1096073.html>

December 15, 2011 (*Reuters*) - Homosexuals and transgender people in all regions face discrimination and violence, including killings, rape and torture because of their orientation, and risk the death penalty in at least five countries, the United Nations said.

In the first official U.N. report on the issue, it called on governments to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, prosecute all serious violations and repeal discriminatory laws.

"Homophobic and transphobic violence has been recorded in all regions. Such violence may be physical (including murder, beatings, kidnappings, rape and sexual assault) or psychological (including threats, coercion and arbitrary deprivations of liberty)," said the report by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay.

In addition to spontaneous "street" violence, people perceived as being LGBT may be targets of more organized abuse, "including by religious extremists, paramilitary groups, neo-Nazis and extreme nationalists," the U.N. report said. Violence against LGBT people tends to be especially vicious, with "a high degree of cruelty" including mutilation and castration, it added. They are also victims of so-called "honor killings" carried out by relatives or community members who believe shame has been brought on the family, according to the 25-page report. Members of sexual minorities are disproportionately subjected to torture, often in custody, the report said.

Currently 76 countries have laws that are used to criminalize behavior on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, it said, calling for their repeal. "Such laws, including so-called 'sodomy laws', are often relics of colonial-era legislation ... Penalties range from short-term to life imprisonment and even the death penalty," it said.

"In at least five countries, the death penalty may be applied to those found guilty of offences relating to consensual, adult homosexual conduct," the U.N. report said. It did not identify the countries, but activists named them as Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. Areas of Nigeria and Somalia also impose the death penalty for homosexual practices, they said.

To read the report:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/19session/A.HRC.19.41_English.pdf

January 5, 2012 (*Pink News*) Jamaica's new Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller, who has said she will review the criminalisation of homosexuality in the country and not forbid gays from serving in her cabinet as former Prime Minister Bruce Golding had, was sworn in. In a televised debate in December she said gays would not be forbidden to serve in her cabinet, and that the government should "have a look" at the criminalisation of gay acts, and vote freely on the matter. Simpson-Miller, who was Prime Minister in 2006 and 2007, said she would choose cabinet members because of "their ability to manage and to lead", not their sexuality.

Earlier in the debate said she wanted to protect the human rights of all Jamaicans, believing the government should protect people against discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, and would "review" the laws criminalising gay sexual acts. Jamaica has been described by human rights groups as having the worst record of any country in the world in its treatment of gays and lesbians.

January 23, 2012 (*She Wired News*) A woman who led the charge to shut down clinics in Ecuador that promised to help "cure" homosexuality, has been appointed the head of the South American country's health ministry.

To continue his pro-gay record, President Rafael Correa has announced that Carina Vance Mafla would join his cabinet as health minister.

LGBT organization Equal Rights Now (Igualdad de Derechos Ya!) commended Mafla's appointment and said they hoped she would "pay attention to the distribution of HIV medications, create guidelines to prevent discrimination against LGBT individuals at hospitals and health centers and take action on shutting down illegal religious "clinics" that promote 'cures' for homosexuality, the journal *Blabbeando* reports.

A network, consisting of nearly 200 illegal so-called reparative clinics were revealed four years ago. Thirty were shut down by Correa's government in September 2011 after pressure from activists including Mafla and petitions directed at the former health minister.

January 26, 2012 (www.lgbt-ep.eu) Members of the European Parliament marked the middle of their five-year mandate by taking part in a gathering for the rights of LGBT people. ILGA-Europe and the LGBT Intergroup in the European Parliament jointly organised a two-day event to reminding MEPs of political priorities to uphold LGBT people's rights in the EU. After the event, a total of 184 Members of the European Parliament had signed ILGA-Europe's "Be Bothered Pledge", a 10-point manifesto first launched during the 2009 European elections. Signatories from 23 Member States and six different political groups committed to upholding the rights of LGBT people in their votes.

February 8, 2012 (*RT News, Huffington Post*) Russia's second city, St-Petersburg, has banned the promotion of gay lifestyles in the presence of children. The newly adopted bill bans any public activity that "might encourage paedophilia".

Under the proposed legislation, promoting homosexuality will be punishable by fines ranging from 5,000 rubles (\$170) for individuals to 500,000 rubles (\$16,800) for legal entities. The bill, first submitted back in November 2011, outraged Russia's human rights and gay rights watchdogs. They claimed that the wording was too discriminatory. The bill effectively outlaws gay-pride parades and any other public display or discussion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, or LGBT, sexual orientations.

St. Petersburg's LGBT community attempted to protest against the scandalous law, but the rally was quickly dispersed by the police. One of the protesters was arrested.

Similar laws have already been adopted and implemented in other Russia's cities and regions: 2006 in Ryazan (2006), in Arkhangelsk (2011) and in Kostroma region (2011). The statements of some Russian politicians also suggest that similar legislation may be adopted at the federal level.

February 9, 2012 (*Huffington Post*) — The Virginia state Senate has passed legislation allowing private adoption agencies to deny placements that conflict with their religious or moral beliefs, including opposition to homosexuality. The vote virtually ensures the Republican-backed bill will become law. Virginia would become just the second state with such a law, which supporters said was modeled after North Dakota's.

State Sen. Jeffrey McWaters, a Republican from Virginia Beach, said his "conscience clause" bill protects the religious rights of private child placement agencies, including dozens that contract with the state to provide foster care and adoption services.

Sen. Adam Ebbin, D-Alexandria and the only openly gay member of the General Assembly, suggested all the talk about religious freedom is a smokescreen for discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. "It has always been about denying LGBT Virginians the right to form families, no matter what we say," Ebbin said.

He said the bill will endanger gay and bisexual children, who make up a disproportionate share of youths awaiting a home, by allowing agencies to place them with parents opposed to homosexuality.

Sen. John Edwards, D-Roanoke, said agencies that contract with the state should not be allowed to discriminate. "You have a right to exercise religion as you see fit, but you don't have a right to impose it on someone else using state dollars," he said.

Miscellaneous News

Check out the best LGBT rights videos of 2011:
<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1125CE04801D7BCB>

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH 2012:

- ◆ Saturday March 3rd starting at 12:45 p.m.

QUEBEC CITY: FAMILY ACTIVITY: CABANE A SUCRE

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

- ◆ Tuesday March 13th at 7 p.m.

CONFERENCE: TRANSSEXUAL PARENTS

(For more information please see enclosed flier).

Location: UQAM 1430 St-Denis (Metro Berri), Room D-R200

- ◆ Wednesday, March 21st 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 Louis-Jacques-Casault, Room CSL-3532
1055, avenue du Séminaire, Québec (Québec)

- ◆ SATURDAY March 31st at 11:30 a.m.

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

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FORM FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS.

APRIL 2012:

- ◆ Tuesday, April 3rd 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 209 Sainte-Catherine east, Room V-3430

- ◆ Monday, April 23rd 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 Louis-Jacques-Casault, Room CSL-3532
1055, avenue du Séminaire, Québec (Québec)

MAY 2012:

- ◆ Wednesday, May 9th 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 209 Sainte-Catherine east, Room V-3430

- ◆ Wednesday, May 23rd 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 Louis-Jacques-Casault, Room CSL-3532
1055, avenue du Séminaire, Québec (Québec)

BULLETIN BOARD:

♦ **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, 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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