



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XIV - No. 1 – SEPTEMBER 2012

Enough! Enough! Enough!

By Ariane Bertouille, member, LGBT Family Coalition and author of *Ulysse et Alice*

Ah, those damn solicitors! Enough is enough! Damn, damn, damn! I know I have blue eyes, but no: I'm not a cash cow! At least before, in the old days, it was just during holiday season. A few off-key carols, on a street corner, for the Salvation Army and the guilty conscience was appeased. Now it's all the time and everywhere. At the entrance AND exit of my metro station. If I take the car someone will stop me at a red light. If I go out to a restaurant someone will ask for a bit of change as I leave, belly full. Even outside the doors of the SAQ or the automatic teller. Everywhere! Why remind me all the time of my guilt about having everything I need? But the worst of all are the telephone solicitations at 6:15 p.m.! A classic in our family!

When I moved in with my girlfriend I insisted that the phone stay in my name. A symbolic gesture. I paid a \$100 down payment to Bell to have my phone line installed when I moved to Quebec. It was meaningful: my name in the phone book. My telephone account. It was proof. Talk about crazy ideas.

Since then I've regretted, *really* regretted that decision. Almost every night (okay I'm exaggerating a bit) around 6:12 p.m., dinner time for our family, the telephone rings and a person asks to speak to Mr. or Mrs. "Bredouille", "Bardouille", "Brenouille", etc. If it's my girlfriend that picks up she's keen to bring me the phone, smiling sadistically: "It's for you!"

After clearing up my family name, the person never fails to gratify me with the unavoidable "*Hello, how are you today?*" before launching into a high-speed, too-fast-to-interrupt "*each year because of people like you we can help people like*" or maybe a "*the XYZ society helps with research for*". Here I have to become a lioness, ready to pounce the moment the person on the other end comes up for air, with my own "*Sorry no thanks we're already donating to other good causes good luck goodbye*" and click! I hang up before they have the chance to go on. And then I start grumbling, while feeling guilty about not having listened to that person, ('cause after all, we're talking about a human being at the other end of the line and not a machine), that I've had enough, enough, enough of soliciting.

The other evening, 6:12 p.m., dinnertime again, the phone rings. I pick up, steeling myself for the inevitable bothersome person who is sure to mangle my name.

- Allo ! C'est Mona ! (heavy English accent, full of grammatical errors)
- Ah... Salut... (*translator's note: heavy Belgian accent :->*)
- Est-ce que tu dérange ? (Are you bothering me?)
- Non, non... pas du tout ! Je pensais que c'était... un autre appel...
- Je voulais te demander d'écrire unE texte pour le bulletin de la CFH...(I wanted to ask you to write another article for our newsletter)
- Ah...
- C'est parce que tu écris tellement bien ! (It's 'cause you write so well)
- Merci...mais...

- Et la fois où tu as écrit « Sexe, sexe, sexe », on a reçu le plus de donnes. (And that time you wrote “Sex, Sex, Sex” we received the most *gives* ever)
- De donnes ?
- Sorry, de dons en argent. (Sorry. I meant ‘donations’)
- Ah, oui mais...
- Tu as le temps, c’est pour dans 4 jours! (You have time, it’s only due in 4 days)
- Bon...je vais y penser et...
- Merci. C’est cool. Maximum 1000 mots, OK ? (Great, thanks! Maximum 1000 words, kay?)

And there you have it! I hope you haven’t turned the page and skipped on to the next article. Ummm, yup. It’s my turn to solicit you...the solicited becomes the solicitor! At least I’m not calling you at 6:12 p.m.!

At least you can read the article during supper and so have a good excuse not to answer the phone if it rings, like at our place. All, while listening with one ear to your kids’ quarrels, your partners’ complaints about the traffic, the radio, the television...and while spinning like a top, if you’re truly a multi-tasker, you can discretely respond to the questionnaire below in about 6 minutes.

Self-test: Are you ‘Solicitable’?

My child (or my nephew, my goddaughter, my grandson, the daughter of my best friend, etc.) is attending, or will one day attend, an elementary or high school. YES NO

If a child who has two mothers or two fathers, a gay uncle or a lesbian grandmother, etc. hears insults about gays, these insults will be hurtful, even if he/she is not the direct target of these remarks. Thinking about this kind of situation in a school near you personally touches you. YES NO

The LGBT Family Coalition’s training program « From Family Diversity to Strategies to End Homophobia » empowers and enables hundreds of teachers each year, throughout Quebec, to prevent homophobia and to respond when children use homophobic insults. YES NO

I can donate \$20, \$40, \$60, \$100, \$200 (circle the correct answer and do not hesitate to add zeros) to the LGBT Family Coalition without the risk of putting my annual budget in peril and without having to eat small-macaroni-with orange-artificial-cheese-flavour-sauce for the next 6 months. YES NO

The LGBT Family Coalition is doing a remarkable job of sensitizing school personnel about family diversity, which is of benefit to all children regardless of the type of family they come from. YES NO

If you obtained 3 or more « YES » responses (is it possible to have less???), take your chequebook out immediately (even if it’s 6:18 p.m. and you haven’t finished dinner), fill it out (with the amount you circled, taking into account the financial precautions mentioned above) and send it to the LGBT Family Coalition along with your membership form.

After supper, the dishes, tidying up around the house and for some of you, the kids’ baths, helping to brush little teeth, the bedtime story, tickles and kisses, the final pee-pees and one more glass of water please, take a little walk to your nearest post-box and send off your envelope. Put the envelope in your car or near your Opus card if you’re alone with kids under 12 (I don’t want to be the reason behind a visit from Youth Protection, after all) and be sure to post it tomorrow.

Before going (at last!) to bed, take a look at your sleeping children or look at the kids on the Coalition’s web site and breath a sigh of wellbeing in thinking that you’ve contributed to making their world more tolerant to all kinds of families, including their own! Ariane B-E-R-T-O-U-I-L-L-E

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 September 2012

Quebec News

June 13 – The provincial government is planning to revamp its 1924 adoption rules to take into account the changing nature of families. “In addition to traditional families, there are reconstituted families, single parents, same-sex parents and a diversity of situations that did not exist before,” said Justice Minister Jean-Marc Fournier. While Quebecers have adapted on their own to these new realities, the Civil Code has lagged behind, Fournier acknowledged.

Should the plans go ahead after the provincial elections, hearings on Bill 81 would begin this fall with a final approval predicted by the spring of 2013. The LGBT Family Coalition will present a brief in the National Assembly regarding the proposed legislation.

In addition to opening the code to new forms of parenting, the bill would: Recognize customary adoption practices by Quebec’s aboriginal peoples; Affirm the primacy of Quebec’s adoption rules for international adoptions; Allow an adopted child or the parent of an adopted child to get information, unless there is a veto, and would allow the transfer of pertinent medical information through medical authorities. Under the present law an adopted person can only get genetic or family history information after proving she would “suffer serious harm to her health” without such disclosures.

The bill could also formally allow children to maintain contact with birth parents, but to what extent this will be regulated is not yet clear. Under the Civil Code, which remains in force until Bill 81 becomes law, the parental link with the birth parents is completely severed once a child is adopted.

Fournier said that the assumption in 1924 was that the origins of a baby given up for adoption were best forgotten. The new law would allow a child to have both birth and adoptive parents, although, as Fournier explained, the adoptive parents would have parental authority, and such arrangements would be subject to court approval.

June 18 - In what may be a world-first, Montreal gay helpline *Gai Écoute* has set up a registry of homophobic acts. The anonymous and confidential *Registre des actes homophobes* will document complaints ranging from name-calling in schools to psychological harassment at work and physical assaults against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. The goal is to raise awareness about ongoing homophobia in Quebec.

The registry will not be used as a tool for a new homophobia police, said Laurent McCutcheon, president of Gai-ecoute. “We will refer people (who fill out the registry’s forms) to existing resources, like youth protection officials, the human rights commission and the police,” he said. “We do not plan to intervene directly.”

Based on the number and type of calls *Gai Écoute* gets, McCutcheon said he expects there might be hundreds of complaint-worthy cases for the registry. “We notice it especially in calls from outside of Montreal, in smaller communities. Sometimes it’s a student who got mocked at school or a teenager with parents threatening to throw the young person out.”

In two years, the group will analyze the registry data and make recommendations to help stem homophobic acts. The registry is being funded with \$60,000 from the Quebec Justice Department, which has set aside \$7.1 million to battle homophobia over five years.

People can report homophobic acts to the registry by phone (1-888-505-1010), email (rah@gaiecoutte.org), mail (RAH, P.O. Box 1006, station C, Montreal, H2L 4V2, or on Gai Écoute's website (gaiecoutte.org). The registry forms are available in English on homophobiaday.org

July 14 - Hundreds of babies have been born in Quebec since the government implemented a free in vitro fertilization (IVF) program in August 2010. "This is something patients and professionals were waiting for," said Dr. Jacques Kadoch, medical director at the assisted procreation clinic of the University of Montreal Health Centre. Kadoch is particularly satisfied that he doesn't need to speak about money when working with couples.

In 2010-11, 1,350 women became pregnant in Quebec following IVF treatments, and a total of 5,188 in vitro fertilization procedures were completed. The number of multiple pregnancies has fallen below the government's goal of 10% to only 6%. "Since it's free, we've stopped implanting multiple embryos so that it works at all costs," Kadoch said.

Despite free access to IVF treatments, waiting lists at clinics are only slightly longer. "There was a boom in the beginning, but not an explosion," Kadoch said.

Martine Robillard, mother of a one-year-old girl born after six years of unsuccessful attempts to get pregnant with her spouse, said that "without gratuity, we would be in debt (forever) for sure. Everybody has the right to have a child and the fact the government made it possible, that's very good."

One IVF cycle costs the government on average \$4,750. The two public clinics offering treatments in Quebec expect to complete 2,000 cycles per year.

August 2 - On the afternoon of August 1st, a Montreal trans advocate and her partner were assaulted in Paris, in view of the couple's children. The family are members of the LGBT Family Coalition. Marie-Ève Baron is with Fierté Montréal Pride (the organizers of the pride parade) and has been active within Montreal's transgender community. Claire, who has French citizenship, is a member of the board of the *Chambre de commerce gai du Québec* and is actively involved in LGBT activism.

Two people in a Renault Clio with a Rottweiler and a pitbull cut the family off in traffic and began shouting insults. Marie-Ève heard the driver tell his passenger: "They're Canadian.... It's two girls but this is a guy who got his balls cut off, and we're going to teach them a lesson."

Although attempting to change lanes to avoid a confrontation, a traffic jam allowed the Clio to block them, and Marie-Ève exited the vehicle. At first, one of the attackers opened a window to encourage their two dogs to attack, but fortunately, both animals showed no sign of aggression. One then kicked Marie-Ève in the head and knocked her to the ground, stunned by the blow. She then received several more punches and kicks to the head. Claire tried to intervene but was in turn violently grabbed and received several blows to the head. At one point, an attacker tried to strangle Marie-Ève with her necklace. Their children knew well enough to stay in the car, but watched in horror as the attack took place.

Despite the many bystanders and the couples' calls for help, no one intervened until an attacker began goading passersby and then one responded by calling the police. Finally, a rider on a scooter stopped and encouraged the assailants to leave, which they did. No one tried to assist the couple.

The family is now at home in Québec.

Canada News

July 17 - A Federal Court judge has ruled that Canada's refugee boards should not rely on stereotypes to determine if a person is gay in cases where applicants believe they will be persecuted if returned to their home countries. The decision stems from the case of a gay Nigerian man, wanted by police in his home country for homosexual activities, who was refused refugee status here. A division of Canada's refugee board ruled Aug 30, 2011, that Francis Ojo Ogunrinde had not proven he was gay, despite sworn affidavits. Reviewing Judge, James Russell, however ruled the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board did not give Ogunrinde's affidavits enough weight in its 2010 decision.

Ogunrinde, 40, has been living in Canada since October 2007, when he arrived as a refugee claimant. He sought Canada's protection because homosexuality is a crime in Nigeria. The RPD decided that Ogunrinde was neither credible nor gay.

After the RPD decision, Ogunrinde applied for a pre-removal risk assessment. He provided two letters from people saying they know he is gay, as well as a letter from a man saying he and Ogunrinde were in a relationship. Ogunrinde also submitted documents from two Nigerians saying Nigerian police had been seeking him because of his homosexual activities.

In reviewing the case, Russell said the RPD officer's reasoning on some points suggests that she had in mind a set of actions or behaviours which would convince her that the applicant is homosexual. "Behaviours which establish a claimant's homosexuality are inherently private," Russell noted. "When evaluating claims based on sexual orientation, officers must be mindful of the inherent difficulties in proving that a claimant has engaged in any particular sexual activities. Claimants may not be in contact with past sexual partners for various reasons, including relationship breakdown, distance, or simply the passage of time."

Russell found the RPD officer also rejected Ogunrinde's and his friends' claims of bad experiences with police, despite corroboration from US Department of State reports. He called the assessment officer's decision unreasonable. "The evidence the applicant submitted was more than sufficient to establish he is homosexual and faces a risk on that basis if he is returned to Nigeria," Russell ruled.

The case has been returned to the RPD for a new pre-removal risk assessment before different staff.

It's an important ruling, says gay Toronto immigration lawyer El-Farouk Khaki. It establishes a framework for assessing — and believing — refugee claimants about their sexual orientation. Khaki says that in the Ogunrinde case, there was plenty of evidence when looked at as a totality, something the RPD officer chose not to do. The officer looked "at the colours but not the whole palette," Khaki says.

Gay Marriage News

June 2 The Conservative faction of American Judaism formally comes out in support of equal marriage, nearly six years after lifting a ban on ordaining gay men and women as rabbis. The current position of the Conservative faction on same-sex relationships, coded in the 'Covenant of Loving Partners,' is as follows: "We acknowledge that these partnerships are distinct from those discussed in the Talmud as 'according to the law of Moses and Israel,' but we celebrate them with the same sense of holiness and joy as that expressed in heterosexual marriages."

June 7 Denmark becomes the latest country to approve same-sex marriage. The law passes with an overwhelming majority in parliament, and also covers weddings in the Church of Denmark.

Denmark was the first country in the world to recognise civil partnerships for same-sex couples in 1989.

June 10 A federal judge in Manhattan joins judges in California and Boston to rule the anti-equality Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional.

The Defense of Marriage Act, passed under the Clinton administration in 1996, when Hawaii Supreme Court seemed on the verge of legalising equal marriage, denies gay spouses Social Security survivor benefits, the ability to file joint tax returns and health insurance rights enjoyed by straight married couples.

The case was brought forth by Edith Windsor, whose partner died in 2009, two years after they married in Canada. Because of DOMA, Ms Windsor could not obtain the unlimited marital deduction on her late wife's estate, and was required to pay over \$350,000 in federal estate tax. She filed her law suit in November 2010, and in her ruling, Judge Jones ordered the government to reimburse Ms Windsor the tax she paid to the federal agency.

Although the federal government under Mr Obama no longer defends DOMA, it has yet to release a statement on the matter.

July 25 Equal marriage advocates welcome the Scottish government's much-awaited announcement that it will be bringing forward legislation to allow gay couples to marry and remove current barriers for trans people. The government will bring forward legislation that would allow gay couples to marry in civil ceremonies and religious ceremonies where faiths choose to permit it. The majority of MSPs have pledged to support such a change in the law.

The law would make Scotland the first part of the UK to allow gay couples to wed and would remove the need for trans people to divorce and form civil partnerships if they transition while married.

July 29 Vietnam's Communist government is considering whether to legalise marriage or civil registration for gay couples. The Justice Ministry is debating whether to include rights for gay couples in an overhaul of marriage laws. It has been suggested that these rights will focus on inheritance, property and adoption of children.

Justice Minister Ha Hung Cuong says: "I think, as far as human rights are concerned, it's time for us to look at the reality. The number of homosexuals has mounted to hundreds of thousands. It's not a small figure. They live together without registering marriage. They may own property. We, of course, have to handle these issues legally."

Although it is not yet clear what form provisions could take or whether proposals will reach the National Assembly, gay rights campaigners say they are surprised by the news.

Associated Press, which reported that legal recognition of gay couples was being discussed, said that attitudes to homosexuality have begun to change in the last five years, with state-run media taking an interest in the lives of the gay community.

July 31 - Backers of California's Proposition 8, intended to ban same-sex marriage in the state, ask the U.S. Supreme Court to take up their appeal after two lower federal courts found the measure unconstitutional. The justices now face two gay rights issues: the Prop 8 appeal and three challenges to the federal Defense of Marriage Act. DOMA, as the law is known, prevents the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage -- even in states where it is legal -- thereby denying various benefits given to heterosexual couples. None of these cases seek for justices to decide the fundamental question of whether the Constitution guarantees same-sex couples the right to marry. The Supreme Court will decide whether to hear the case at its conference in early October.

International News

June 1 (*Advocate.com*) JC Penney, which stood up to right-wing pressure to retain Ellen DeGeneres as spokeswoman, is being even more LGBT-inclusive by featuring two real-life gay dads in its June ad booklet in honor of Father's Day.

The booklet, being mailed to customers and also available at the JC Penney website, has a picture of gay couple Todd Koch and Cooper Smith with their children, Claire and Mason, and copy reading, "What makes Dad so cool? He's the swim coach, tent maker, best friend, bike fixer and hug giver — all rolled into one. Or two."

In its May flier, the retailer featured lesbian moms for Mother's Day, with women identified as Wendi and Maggie, both wearing wedding bands, pictured with their two daughters.

The gay dads, predictably, raised the ire of the antigay group One Million Moms. A post on the Million Moms website says JC Penney "is continuing down the same path of promoting sin in their advertisements." It urges consumers to return the mailers, unsubscribe from JC Penney solicitations, and close their charge accounts with the retailer.

One Million moms is also behind an attack on the new American sitcom "The New Normal", for portraying a gay couple who have a baby by surrogate.

June 3 (*Associated Press*) Hundreds of gay and trans men and women, together with their supporters, have marched through the capitals of Poland and Latvia, demanding greater acceptance and rights in their respective societies, where they still face high levels of homophobia and transphobia.

Although several of the former-Soviet countries joined the EU in 2004, and have moved towards more liberal policies for LGBT people, homosexuality still remains a taboo subject, with outright hostility from rightwing groups and politicians. The marches both in Riga and Warsaw required heavy police protection, *Associated Press* reports, though this year, the opposition was smaller in number and force than the previous ones.

In addition, the march in Riga included the participation of the US ambassador to Latvia, Judith Garber, under instructions from Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Ms Garber said: "Human rights belong to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. So we are marching in support of LGBT people here in Latvia, in the Baltics, in Europe, and throughout the world."

Meanwhile, Poland's LGBT community used the occasion to mark the inclusion of Poland's first gay and transgender MPs into the parliament last year, which marked a significant improvement in a country where politicians have repeatedly denounced gay and trans people. The party to which these MPs belonged, Palikot's Movement, had its own float in the Warsaw march.

June 10 (*PinkNews.com*) In the wake of proposals to decriminalise homosexuality and to improve human rights at large in Malawi, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the UK government have both announced increase in aid for the country.

The former president, Bingu wa Mutharika, who died in office this April, had been widely criticised for his approach to the economy and human rights, which resulted in severe curbs in international aid.

However, the new president, Joyce Banda, is seen something of a moderniser, and in a sweep of new measures, announced that so-called indecency laws and those against 'unnatural sexual acts' will be repealed.

Meanwhile, the UK government has also announced a £33 million aid package for Malawi earlier this week. Last year, the UK government confirmed aid would be redirected away from the central governments of countries who do not protect citizens' human rights, including the rights of gay people.

July 3 (*PinkNews.com*) France's prime minister Jean-Marc Ayrault has told parliament that gay couples will be permitted to marry and adopt children in 2013. Mr Ayrault was making a keynote speech setting out the socialist government's five-year political and social agenda. "In the first half of 2013, the right to marriage and adoption will be open to all couples, without discrimination," he said. "Our society is evolving, lifestyles and mentalities are changing. The government will respond to that."

New president Francois Hollande's presidential election manifesto pledged: "I will open the right to marriage and adoption to homosexual couples."

While gay and straight French couples can currently enter Civil Solidarity Pacts (PACS) only straight couples can marry. Although PACS offer many legal protections, they do not give couples the right to joint adoption or artificial insemination.

Polls have found that most French people support equal marriage and adoption by gay couples.

July 8 (*Huffington Post*) Google has launched a campaign called 'Legalise Love', aimed at pushing for gay rights in countries with anti-homosexuality laws. Despite the title, the initiative is not about promoting marriage equality. Instead, a Google spokesperson said the campaign will "promote safer conditions for gay and lesbian people inside and outside the office in countries with anti-gay laws on the books".

Google executive Mark Palmer-Edgecumbe said: "We want our employees who are gay or lesbian or transgender to have the same experience outside the office as they do in the office. It is obviously a very ambitious piece of work."

July 18 (*GLAAD.com*) A den mother dismissed by the Boy Scouts of America because she is a lesbian has taken a 300,000 signature petition to the organisation's headquarters. Jennifer Tyrrell, who was the leader of a Bridgeport, Ohio, Tiger Cub den, was dismissed in April. She had been den mother for the group for a year, taking the position when her seven-year-old son Cruz joined.

Ms Tyrrell says a local Cubmaster knew of her sexual orientation and assured her it would not be a problem when she joined.

The Boy Scouts of America bans gay members, volunteers and staff. As a private organisation, BSA has adopted a position since 1991 which states that homosexuality is "inconsistent with the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and the Scout Law that a Scout be clean in word and deed".

The organisation has confirmed that it will retain its ban on homosexuality.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2012:

◆ **Saturday September 1st from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
COMMUNITY DAY IN QUEBEC CITY: FÊTE ARC-EN-CIEL

Along with many other community organizations, we will have our own **information kiosk especially for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans parents and future parents**. We encourage you to join us there both to support our group and to find out about other community groups that may be of interest to you. Kiosks will be grouped on **St-Jean between Sutherland and Ste-Claire**. Food will be available on the site.

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH at 11 a.m. (RAIN DATE: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH)**
PICNIC-BBQ AT MOUNT ROYAL IN MONTREAL

The LGBT Family Coalition, would like to invite all LGBT family members with or without children, as well as all our allies and friends, to a **Community Picnic and Barbecue on Mount Royal**. Join us to relax and exchange with family and friends, at one of Montreal's beautiful landmarks. There will be food, music, sports and games. This activity will take place on **Saturday September 8th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** We will meet near the Chalet at Lac des Castors (Beaver Lake).

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

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

For more information, or in case of bad weather please call Mona at: 514-846-1543

OCTOBER 2012

◆ **Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m.**
PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: HOW TO FORM A FAMILY/ LEGAL QUESTIONS (FOR WOMEN)

So, you're in a couple or single and after a lot of reflection and possibly a lot of soul-searching, you've decided you want to have children. Great idea, but how? What are our rights and responsibilities as lesbian parents in Quebec? What are the rights of known and unknown donors? Do we need to write a donor contract if we are inseminating at home? What does a contract have to say? Does getting married give our children extra legal protection? Whose name goes onto the child's birth certificate? An open discussion to explore the legal (and social) aspects of our various choices.

See flier for more details

◆ **Tuesday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m.**
PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: HOW TO FORM YOUR FAMILY/ THE OPTIONS (FOR MEN)

So, you're two guys or a single guy and after a lot of reflection and possibly a lot of soul-searching, you've decided you want to have children. Great idea, but how? Adoption, surrogacy, co-parenting... there are a few options out there. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Do you need to get married? Do you have to hide your sexual orientation to adopt? What legal issues do you need to take into consideration? Come and hear the testimonials of various parents having chosen different options to form their families, followed by an open discussion.

See flier for more details

◆ **Saturday October 27th from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

HALLOWEEN GET-TOGETHER : ECOMUSEUM

Come and hang out with other LGBT families. A pleasant walk through the ecomuseum will bring you in close contact with more than 110 other species in natural setting enclosures. Admire majestic birds of prey like eagles, red-tailed hawks and owls. Observe black bears, wolves, otters, caribou, porcupines, and other species native to Quebec.

See flier for more details

NOVEMBER 2012

◆ **Thursday November 1st at 7:00 p.m.**

WORKSHOP: SEX AFTER KIDS

Period of huge changes, the arrival of a child will definitely change the parents' sex life. For a few months? Forever? This dynamic workshop will help participants, through exchange and sharing of information, to navigate this important change in their couple life.

Reservations required. See flier for more details.

◆ **Tuesday November 13th at 7:00 p.m.**

PART 2: PARENTING COURSE: ADOPTING CHILDREN (FOR MEN AND WOMEN)

If you are considering adoption but do not know how it all works this could be the right meeting for you. At this meeting we'll talk about the children, their biological parents and about youth protection, legal information and explanations of the adoption and fostering processes, as well as real-life stories from gay and lesbian parents who have adopted and/or fostered children.

See flier for more details

◆ **Tuesday November 27th at 7:00 p.m.**

FILM SCREENING "NO DUMB QUESTIONS" AND DISCUSSION FOR TRANS PARENTS AND FUTURE PARENTS

"No Dumb Questions" : This lighthearted and poignant documentary profiles three sisters, ages 6, 9 and 11, struggling to understand why and how their Uncle Bill is becoming a woman. These girls love their Uncle Bill, but will they feel the same way when he becomes their new Aunt Barbara? With just weeks until Bill's first visit as Barbara, the sisters navigate the complex territories of anatomy, sexuality, personality, gender and fashion. Their reactions are funny, touching, and distinctly different. Following the film, Marie-Ève Baron, a transsexual mom and her partner Claire Giroudeau, mothers of two young girls will speak about their own experiences and will open a discussion on how to speak to children about transsexuality.

See flier for more details

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

◆ **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, 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