



Coalition des familles homoparentales

LGBT Family Coalition

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XV - No. III – March 2014

The LGBT Family Coalition is looking for new facilitators!

More than 8000 professionals trained in our workshops... and thousands more to come!

Since 2009, the LGBT Family Coalition has carried out workshops for teachers and youth workers based in schools and community organisations. The overall aim of these workshops is to increase people's awareness about the realities of our families and the impact of homophobia on youth and their surroundings. A resource kit is given to each workshop participant. The kit includes various tools and resources to develop inclusive practices. The workshop was developed in collaboration with research teams from the *Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM) and McGill University, with the financial support of the Québec's Ministry of Education.

To date, approximately 20 CFH members, either parents or future parents, from Montreal and Quebec City have been involved in delivering these workshops. Given the success of the workshops and the recent adoption of Bill 56, a new provincial law to tackle bullying in Quebec schools, our workshops have become more and more popular. We are currently looking for new facilitators in order to meet the increasing demand.

Here are the experiences of two of the Coalition's facilitators: to spark your interest in joining our team!

Rachel Benoît has been a LGBT Family Coalition facilitator for the past year.

I joined the Coalition in 2010 when my partner and I decided to follow the information seminars for future parents. A few months later, the Coalition started to recruit new facilitators. I contacted Mona and I soon started the facilitators' training. For me, this involvement was a way to meet LGBTQ parents and be able to exchange with them. More importantly, I felt as if my involvement could have a real impact on people's mentalities.

To date, I have co-facilitated about 10 trainings in front of a variety of audiences: future elementary and high school teachers, early childhood workers, healthcare providers, undergraduate and graduate students in psychology, psychoeducation and social work. Through these workshops I've had inspiring discussions with the participants about youth work and the needs to better equip teachers and school staff on LGBTQ questions and interventions. The feedback I received from the participants is unequivocal: our trainings meet an important need.

For the past 15 years, I have worked in various settings in education and in community groups, in Quebec and internationally. In recent years, I have been more and more interested in rooting myself locally, in my community. Facilitating for the Coalition has been fulfilling; I really feel I contribute to making the world a better place.

Elana Wright has also been a LGBT Family Coalition facilitator for the past year

The year our son Stelio started kindergarten, the knowledge that he would one day be confronted with homophobia because he has two moms began to sink in. It was inevitable, but at the same time, I knew that we had raised him to be confident and resilient, and that we had done all we could to prepare him. But, I found out that there was another thing I could do to prevent homophobia in Quebec schools. I had the opportunity to

actually make a difference and promote change in our kids' schools by training teachers to deal with homophobia in their classrooms, as well as in the hallways and in the schoolyard.

Because of our love for our kids, lesbian and gay parents like us are committed to the goal of making Quebec schools homophobia-free zones. The CFH's 3-hour workshops for teachers and future teachers are facilitated by lesbian moms and gay dads (and future parents) whose passion for the topic is evident every time they give a workshop. This commitment and passion has motivated us to train thousands of veteran, new, and future teachers.

The training begins by demystifying many of the myths surrounding lesbian and gay families and homosexuality in general, and then offers current scientific research about the prevalence and impact of homophobia in Québec schools. Finally, we provide the teachers with some hands-on training and a wide variety of pedagogical resources, so teachers from daycare to high school have age-appropriate lesson plans and concrete strategies to equip them to confront homophobia at school.

According to the evaluations, teachers who take our training walk away with the skills and resources they need to intervene when faced with homophobia, and to teach children about the diversity of the families around them, and that all of these families deserve respect.

Since taking the short training for facilitators, and becoming part of the team of trainers, I have walked into elementary schools, high schools, CEGEPs, and universities and have felt that I really am making a difference for our kids. I can actually see the eyes of the teachers and education students opening up to the impact of homophobia. They leave the training inspired to take concrete steps to ensure that their classrooms are welcoming and inclusive to the wide diversity of families that we are creating.

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So, if you are interested in fostering social inclusion and helping to make the world a better place, join our team!

We are currently looking for people who are LGBTQ parents or future parents, from diverse backgrounds (work experience, professionals/students, ethnocultural background, age), to join our team. The following points are essential:

- Experience in group facilitation and / or ability to communicate orally in front of a group;
- Good control of emotions and diplomacy;
- Fluent French (having English as well is a real asset)
- Flexible work / school schedule – (to be able to dedicate at least one day per month to carrying out workshops)
- Availability for occasional trips;
- Ability to participate in the Coalition facilitators' training which include:

*Observing at least two 3-hour workshops during the spring or summer of 2014;
Participating in facilitators' training sessions on two intensive weekends during the fall of 2014.*

If you are interested please contact us, before March 30th to set up an interview: info@familleshomoparentales.org or 514-878-7600.

Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to info@familleshomoparentales.org or by post to CFH, 110, rue Sainte-Thérèse, bureau 405, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1E6

News Briefs: Up until March 2014

Quebec News

November 18, 2013 - The LGBT Family Coalition congratulates the *Commission scolaire de Montréal* (CSDM) for its recent decision to modify admission forms in order to reflect diversity in families. On October 23, the CSDM unanimously voted to replace the terms 'father' and 'mother' by the word 'parent' on all of the forms available on its Intranet and Internet sites, as well as all the forms used by CSDM schools where the words 'father' and 'mother' appear. In doing so, the CSDM meets a major objective of the Québec Government Action Plan against Homophobia 2011-2016, by adapting public services to the specific needs of sexual minorities and by modifying, where necessary, the terminology used in administrative documents to reflect the *Act instituting civil unions and establishing new rules of filiation*.

In June 2002, more than ten years ago now, the *Act instituting civil unions and establishing new rules of filiation* was adopted unanimously by the National Assembly, thus granting same-sex couples conjugal and parental rights. The *Directeur de l'état civil* also modified its forms following the adoption of this Act.

"It is important for our children that their family reality be reflected in the schools at all levels, including on the various forms used by the schools and the letters that are sent home to parents. Children see these documents at the school - that's where they learn how to read them! Their feeling of belonging and pride in their family is strengthened when the reality of their family is recognized. And this change is also important for all children who do not live in traditional families." stated Gary Sutherland, president of the LGBT Family Coalition. The Coalition has contacted all of Quebec's school boards to encourage them to make the same changes. As of February 15th 2014, six other school boards have followed suit (the English Montreal School Board, *la Commission scolaire de la Capitale* (Quebec City), *la CS Harricana* (Amos) and *la Commission scolaire des Hautes-Rivières* (Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu). The *CS Pointe de l'Île* and the *CS Marguerite-Bourgeoys* (both in Montreal) have written us to say that they intend to change their forms in the near future.

December 6, 2013 - The Quebec National Assembly has passed an amendment to its civil code removing the stipulation that persons wanting to legally change their gender identity must first undergo sex-change surgery. After the amendment, Quebec's Civil Code maintains the requirement that only Canadian citizens 18 years or older and living in Quebec for at least one year can apply to have the sex appearing on their identity documents changed. But the code now reads that the change "may in no case be made dependent on the requirement to have undergone any medical treatment or surgical operation whatsoever."

Transsexual rights activists said that while the amendment makes the civil code "less discriminatory," the age, citizenship and residency requirements still discriminate against the trans community. "We still have to fight for the rights of trans immigrants and trans minors," said Marc-Antoine Cloutier, general director of Juripop, a Québec legal clinic.

A federal bill seeking to include "gender identity" and "gender expression" as protected rights in the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code is currently before the Senate.

December 10, 2013 – The *Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse* has awarded its 2013 Rights and Freedoms Prize to Steve Foster, in recognition for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of rights and freedoms of members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender communities (LGBT), during a ceremony attended by more than 125 people in Montréal.

Mr. Foster has been overseeing the Conseil québécois LGBT since 2006. He has played a key role rallying LGBT organizations, fostering and coordinating exchanges between community groups and politicians, denouncing homophobic comments in the media and giving a voice to people most at risk of discrimination, notably in the

trans community. He has received the support of several community groups and public figures who have hailed his commitment, his reliability, his integrity and his availability despite a busy schedule.

February 6, 2014 - The rainbow flag flew over city hall in Old Montreal for the duration of the Winter Olympics. The local LGBT community hailed this as a positive note of protest against the oppressive and discriminatory practices against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in Russia, where the games were held.

“The Conseil Québécois-LGBT is very pleased with the positive and swift response from the mayor’s office, especially since Montreal was an Olympic Games host city,” CQ-LGBT general director M. Steve Foster said in a statement. “By this gesture we are symbolizing the brotherhood and solidarity of Montrealers,” Coderre said. Quebec City also raised the rainbow flag.

The Conseil Québécois-LGBT along with Équipe-Montréal had set up a Pride House in the gay village at the Gotha Lounge to promote the cause of equality in sport and to underline human rights abuses in the LGBT-community worldwide.

Canada News

December 15, 2013 - A Canadian consultant was paid tens of thousands of dollars to refer customers to a so-called “baby-selling” scheme in the United States, according to a court document filed as the first-ever prosecution under this country’s fertility-treatment law ended with a guilty plea from Leia Picard. Ms. Picard and her company — Canadian Fertility Consultants (CFC) — were fined \$60,000 for federal offences that also included illegally paying fees to women to donate eggs or act as surrogate mothers. The Assisted Human Reproduction Act, designed to prevent commercialization of “assisted-human reproduction,” allows only legitimate expenses to be reimbursed.

The agreed statement of facts submitted by the defense and prosecution opens a rare window on the surrogacy world, where “carriers” recruited by Ms. Picard through Craigslist or Kijiji would be paid bonuses of up to \$7,500 for giving birth to twins, or having to undergo a Caesarian section — on top of flat fees of as much as \$24,000.

The most striking revelations in the document, though, concern the U.S. baby-selling ring. Hilary Neiman, a Maryland lawyer, and two other Americans had arranged for numerous surrogates to be impregnated via in-vitro fertilization in Ukraine. The unborn children were offered up when pregnancies reached the second trimester — a process that another lawyer described as “creating human life for sale.” The U.S. women falsely claimed the surrogates had signed contracts with “intended parents” before getting pregnant, a requirement under even the most liberal U.S. laws, but that those parents had backed out of their agreements.

The statement of facts says Ms. Neiman, who was sent to jail for her part in the affair, paid Ms. Picard about \$10,000 on three occasions for referring would-be parents, who ended up paying the American lawyer as much as \$150,000 for babies born to the surrogates. The Canadian consultant, who has offices in Ontario and B.C., did not “knowingly” participate in the U.S. fraud, however, says the joint statement. She was unaware of the true nature of the American scheme, her lawyer, Frank Addario, said.

December 29, 2013 - Canada’s Foreign Affairs Minister has written to his Russian counterpart to denounce that country’s anti-gay law as Canadian athletes prepare for the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. “In the lead-up to Sochi, Canada remains concerned about the legislation passed in June 2013 that places a ban on the ‘propagandizing of non-traditional sexual relations among minors,’” John Baird wrote in a letter to Sergey Lavrov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Russian Federation. “We encourage the Russian Federation to extend to all of its citizens – as well as foreign visitors – full human rights protections, including freedom from violence, harassment or discrimination based on sexual orientation,” wrote Mr. Baird in the letter that was obtained by *The Globe and Mail* and other news outlets.

The law calls for the prosecution of those who express pro-gay views. Gay-pride events are prohibited and it is illegal to provide information about homosexual relationships to minors. Foreigners who are found to have participated in those crimes could be subject to fines and could spend as many as 15 days in a Russian jail.

January 21, 2014 - No matter the goal of a school club, all of them strive to push students to achieve a greater purpose. Gay-straight alliances (GSAs) in some Canadian schools could be going a step further, though, by promoting tolerance and creating bonds that ultimately lead to safer school environments and a reduced number of suicide attempts. The best part: A new study shows that they work.

Led entirely by students, GSAs encourage anyone who identifies as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) heterosexual, or questioning to join. Their goal is to make schools a safe environment for everyone. About one in four students say that they've been bullied at school and even fewer have been cyberbullied, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). LGBTQ youth, however, are at a heightened risk for any type of bullying, and about 55.2 percent say that they have been bullied online.

"We know that LGBTQ students are at a higher risk for suicide, in part because they are more often targeted for bullying and discrimination," said Elizabeth Saewyc, lead author of the study and professor at the University of British Columbia School of Nursing. "But heterosexual students can also be the target of homophobic bullying. When policies and supportive programs like GSAs are in place long enough to change the environment of the school, it's better for students' mental health, no matter what their orientation."

The study looked at more than 21,000 students in grades eight through 12, and involved students who went to schools that had instituted anti-homophobic bullying policies, GSA's, or neither. In schools with GSAs, discrimination toward LGBTQ students fell by more than half. Heterosexual students also experienced less discrimination, and boys were half as likely to attempt suicide. Schools with anti-bullying policies in place also saw a reduction in suicide thoughts and attempts — more than 70 percent for boys and about 66 percent for girls.

February 5, 2014 - Trinity Western University is rallying support for its proposed law school, which faces determined opposition from lawyers and academics, warning alumni that Canadians' religious freedom "is in peril." In an e-mail, Trinity Western's vice-president of alumni, Scott Campbell, called on graduates to support the school and asked LGBT alumni "to lend your voice to this important discussion." Law societies in several provinces are under growing pressure to rethink accrediting future law graduates from the faith-based university in Langley, B.C., which prohibits same-sex intimacy.

The missive also points to a video address from university president Bob Kuhn, who says opposition to the new law school goes beyond concerns about training lawyers and "strikes at the very heart of religious freedom in Canada." Critics argue the school's ban on sexual intimacy except between a married man and woman is discriminatory, prompting Mr. Kuhn – a lawyer himself – to ask alumni "to stand with us and to pray with us."

Trinity Western plans to open its law school in 2016, having won approvals in December from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and B.C.'s government. But lawyers and law professors are urging provincial law societies, which have the authority to deny accreditation to graduates, to reconsider. If some do, it could delay or even scuttle the school. The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society is undertaking a review, and societies in other provinces, including Ontario, may follow suit.

February 6, 2014 - A Vancouver baby has just become the first child in British Columbia with three parents listed on a birth certificate. Three-month-old Della Wolf Kangro Wiley Richards is the daughter of lesbian parents and their male friend. B.C.'s new Family Law Act, which came into effect last year, allows for three or even more parents.

B.C. is the first province in Canada with legislation to allow three parents on a birth certificate, although it's been achieved elsewhere through litigation.

"Up until now, a child could only have two legal parents," said lawyer barbara findlay — who spells her name without capital letters, and helped the three parents navigate the process. "There is now an upper limit of — we won't know how many parents. There's provision for at least four parents, and possibly more," findlay said.

The new Family Law Act, which came into effect in March 2013, aims to clarify who is a parent and who isn't as more couples turn to assisted reproduction. The act allows donors to be listed as additional parents, if the parents sign a written agreement before conception.

Gay Marriage News

November 20 - Before a crowd of thousands at the University of Illinois, Governor Pat Quinn signs Senate Bill 10 into law, bringing marriage equality to **Illinois**.

November 20 - The Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies of **Brazil** approves a referendum for people to vote on marriage between persons of the same sex, which could take place in October 2014, at the same time as the presidential and parliamentary elections.

November 27 - The same month that it was ruled by the Strasbourg Court that **Greece** was violating the European Convention on Human Rights by not allowing civil partnerships, the country announces legislation to legally recognize cohabiting same-sex couples.

According to the European Court of Justice, out of 19 countries with integrated legal forms for the union of couples into their law, only Greece, and Lithuania, have excluded same-sex couples from legal protections.

December 1 - A majority of **Croatians** vote in a referendum to ban gay marriages in what is a major victory for the Catholic Church-backed conservatives in the European Union's newest nation. The result means that [Croatia](#)'s constitution will be amended to ban same-sex marriage.

The vote has deeply divided Croatia. Liberal groups have said the referendum's question infringes on basic human rights. The church-backed groups have gathered 750,000 signatures in its support. The country of 4.4 million, which became EU's 28th member in July, has taken steps to improve [gay rights](#), but issues such as same-sex marriage remain highly sensitive. The referendum was called by the conservative group *In the Name of the Family* after Croatia's centre-left government drafted a law to let gay couples register as "life partners".

December 2 - After several weeks of build-up, the groups who oppose same sex-marriage in **Taiwan** descend by the busload on Taipei for a large protest as the government mulls legal revisions that would make same-sex unions possible. According to the organizers, as many as 350,000 people turned up for the event, which was intended as a means to pressure the legislature not to amend Article 972 of the Civil Code, which would open the door to same-sex marriage.

December 12 - **Australia**'s High Court overturns legislation allowing gay marriage in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The ACT parliament passed a bill in October making the territory the first part of Australia to legalize same-sex weddings. But the national government challenged the decision, saying it was inconsistent with federal laws. Some 27 couples who married since the law came into effect will now have their unions declared invalid.

The court says the issue should be decided by parliament - which in September 2012 voted down gay marriage legislation.

December 19 - In a landmark decision, the **New Mexico** Supreme Court declares that marriage rights must be extended to same-sex couples throughout the state. The state's highest court unanimously rules that denying

committed same-sex couples the right to marry violates the Equal Protection clause of the New Mexico constitution.

December 20 - A federal judge declares **Utah's** ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, ordering that marriage equality be enacted in the state immediately. There is no stay on the order, meaning gay and lesbian couples can now apply for marriage licenses in Utah, though it's possible the decision could be appealed.

Utah is the 18th state in the U.S., to extend legal marriage rights to same-sex couples.

January 15 - A judge rules that the ban on same-sex marriage in the US state of **Oklahoma** is unconstitutional.

January 27 - 34 couples, both same-sex and opposite sex, are married on-screen at the **Grammy Awards**, with the ceremony officiated by Queen Latifah. The service forms part of a performance by Macklemore & Ryan Lewis with Madonna. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis are named best new artist at the awards ceremony. Their song 'Same Love' became the anthem of the marriage equality movement in the United States last year.

February 4 - The **Scottish** parliament overwhelmingly passes a bill permitting same-sex weddings to take place in the country, despite opposition from Scotland's two largest churches. The parliament votes 105 to 18 in favour of the bill, which will allow gay and lesbian weddings to take place in Scotland as early as the fall.

International News

December 20 (The Advocate) Uganda's parliament has abruptly passed the long-languishing Anti-Homosexuality Bill, though the prime minister said that not enough members of parliament were present to establish a formal quorum and validate the vote. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill was first introduced by MP David Bahati in 2009, and at that time prescribed the death penalty for certain instances of "aggravated homosexuality," including if one person was HIV-positive or if the liaison involved a minor. The BBC reports that the capital punishment provision has been replaced with one calling for life imprisonment for such instances, while maintaining an earlier stipulation that imposes jail sentences for anyone who does not report a "known homosexual" to police.

Bahati, the bill's original sponsor and one of its most ardent supporters, said that the vote was "A victory for Uganda. I am glad the parliament voted against evil."

After the bill was introduced in 2009, international outcry effectively scuttled the bill until now. President Obama called the legislation "odious," and some international allies have threatened to rescind aid to Uganda if it passed the law. But even without the law's passage, LGBT Ugandans have been arrested without cause, harassed, and beaten in the staunchly conservative nation. (*Editor's note: President Yoweri Museveni is believed to have signed the anti-gay bill into law on February 18th, 2014.*)

December 25 (Gay Star News) A social-minded government primary school teacher has teamed up with an illustrator to produce a picture book to promote equality education in gender and sexual orientation. The children's book, whose title translates as 'A Ken's Happy Home', is based on genuine local gay families and is the first of its kind in **Taiwan**.

'Love makes a family,' said author Liu Jia-yu, who has taught in Kaohsiung for 13 years. 'Children do not hold any prejudice. Proper gender equality education should start with children.'

January 6 (The Advocate) Pope Francis has continued the **Roman Catholic Church's** shift in tone on LGBT issues by calling for the church to adjust its approach to dealing with children of gay and divorced parents, although Vatican officials have taken care to emphasize that doesn't mean the pope is open to same-sex unions. "Gay unions raise challenges for us today which for us are sometimes difficult to understand," Pope Francis said in a November meeting with leaders of Catholic religious orders. With so many parents in so-called non-traditional relationships, the challenge to the church in ministering to their children is "How can we proclaim Christ to a

generation that is changing?" Francis asked. He added, "We must be careful not to administer a vaccine against faith to them."

January 14 (News.com.au) Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan has approved a bill banning gay marriage and same-sex partnerships that sparked international condemnation. "Jonathan signed off on the Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Bill because it was consistent with the attitudes of most people towards homosexuality in the Nigeria," said Jonathan's spokesman Reuben Abati. "More than 90 percent of Nigerians are opposed to same sex marriage. So, the law is in line with our cultural and religious beliefs as a people."

Amnesty International urged Jonathan to reject the bill, calling it "discriminatory" and warning of "catastrophic" consequences for Nigeria's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Under the terms of the law, anyone who enters into a same-sex marriage or civil union can be sentenced to 14 years in prison while any such partnerships entered into abroad are deemed "void". It also warns that anyone who registers, operates or participates in gay clubs, societies and organizations or who directly or indirectly makes a public show of a same-sex relationship will break the law. Punishment is up to 10 years in prison.

Nigeria is a highly religious society, with its 170 million people roughly divided in half between Christians and Muslims, though a significant number are also believed to follow traditional religions.

January 28 (Bilirico.com) In a stubborn refusal to join the 21st century, a two-judge panel of the Supreme Court of **India** has declared that it would not reconsider its shocking decision in December 2013 to recriminalize gay sex by reinstating the country's colonial-era sodomy ban. That decision, which reversed a landmark 2009 lower court ruling, sparked outrage across India and around the world. Politicians, government officials, major newspapers, celebrities, and LGBT advocates roundly condemned the Supreme Court ruling as retrograde, "medieval," and a violation of basic human rights.

Some human rights advocates and court observers had hoped the fierce backlash would prompt the court to rethink its decision, but this announcement by the Supreme Court put those hopes to bed. This means gay sex will remain a criminal offense in India as it was in the years between 1861 and 2009 (and again after December 11, 2013), punishable by up to ten years in prison.

It's estimated that between 14% and 17% of the world's LGB population lives in India, the second most populous nation on Earth.

It appears that there are two options that remain for India's newly recriminalized LGB population. The first is the course of action that the India Supreme Court advised in its ruling in December: parliamentary repeal. However, as the *New York Times* reported, there is nearly no chance of that happening. There is almost no chance that Parliament will act where the Supreme Court did not, advocates and opponents of the law agree. And with the Bharatiya Janata Party, a conservative Hindu nationalist group, appearing in ascendancy before national elections in the spring, the prospects of any legislative change happening for years is highly unlikely, analysts say.

Anjali Gopalan, founder of a charity that sued to overturn the 1861 law, said she was "shocked" by the ruling. "This is taking many, many steps back. The Supreme Court has not just let down the LGBT community," Ms. Gopalan said, "but the constitution of India."

The option of last resort is what's called a curative petition, where an aggrieved party asks senior justices of the full 28-member Indian Supreme Court to intervene to protect against a violation of basic human rights.

February 7 (Buzz Feed) Judging by police behaviour surrounding several demonstrations that took place in **Russia** at the outset of the Olympic Games, the country's ban on so-called gay propaganda only extends to those taking a pro-LGBT stance, not those spreading antigay hate.

Four LGBT activists were arrested in St. Petersburg as they attempted to unfurl a banner quoting the Olympic Charter's promise of sport without discrimination. The activists were unexpectedly surrounded by police as they approached the site of their picket in central St. Petersburg. They intended to hold a banner that read, "Discrimination is incompatible with the Olympic Movement. Principle 6. Olympic Charter," but police interrupted the demonstration as the activists tried to snap photos with the banner. Some activists suspect government officials were spying on private phone conversations, since the planned protest was not publicized and only those involved were aware that it was taking place.

Just hours later, as many as 10 LGBT activists were arrested in Moscow's Red Square as they sang the Russian national anthem and waved rainbow and Russian flags.

But while Russian police are often suspiciously quick to arrest LGBT demonstrators, they reportedly left an antigay demonstration in Sochi carry on uninterrupted. The picketers held signs in Russian and English, including a classic that LGBT Americans are likely familiar with seeing at Pride celebrations, declaring that "Homo Sex Is Sin."

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH 2014:

◆ **Sunday March 9 at 10:30 a.m.**

MONTREAL: TOBOGANNING AT PARC PELICAN

(For more information please see attached flier).

◆ **Sunday March 16 from 10 a.m.**

QUEBEC CITY: FAMILY ACTIVITY: SUGAR SHACK

Join us for a sugar shack party at the Érablière du Lac-Beauport! Brunch, pony rides, wood-chopping competitions, etc.

12 years and older: 22,95 \$

Children 6-12: 12,95 \$

Children 1-5: 6,95 \$ (pony ride included)

12 months and younger: free

To reserve:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vCYhgcNQ9AAkFPYWw_j__J9ONIUQGzQerilyUYW69ml/viewform. **Reservations necessary.**

◆ **Tuesday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

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

(For more information please see attached flier). **Reservations necessary.**

Location: Université Laval, Pavillon Louis-Jacques-Casault
1055, avenue du Séminaire, Québec (Québec)

◆ **Saturday March 29 at 10:00 a.m.**

BABY-PARENT MASSAGE WORKSHOP (FIRST SESSION)

(For more information please see attached flier). **Reservations necessary.**

◆ **Sunday March 30 at 11:00 a.m.**

FAMILY ACTIVITY: L'ÉRABLIÈRE LES FEMMES COLLIN (LANAUDIÈRE).

(For more information please see attached flier). **Reservations necessary.**

APRIL 2014:

◆ Tuesday, April 8th 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 attached flier). **Reservations necessary.**

Location: Université Laval, Pavillon Louis-Jacques-Casault
1055, avenue du Séminaire, Québec (Québec)

◆ Wednesday April 16 at 7:00 p.m.

MONTREAL: SPECIAL CONFERENCE AND FILM FOR TRANS PARENTS

(For more information please see attached flier).

Location: UQAM, Room DS-1950, Pavillon Alexandre de Sève, 320, rue Ste-Catherine, East.

◆ Monday April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE AND FILM ('PATERNAL INSTINCT') ON SURROGACY

(For more information please see attached flier).

Location: Centre St-Pierre, 1212, rue Panet, Room 203

MAY 2014:

◆ Tuesday, May 6 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 attached flier). **Reservations necessary.**

Location: Université Laval, Pavillon Louis-Jacques-Casault
1055, avenue du Séminaire, Québec (Québec)

◆ Tuesday May 20 at 7:00 p.m.

MONTREAL: CONFERENCE ON PARENTAL SEPARATION AND BLENDED FAMILIES: THIS HAPPENS TO OUR FAMILIES TOO!

(For more information please see attached flier).

Location: Maison Parent Roback, 110, rue Ste-Thérèse, Room 103-107, Vieux-Montréal, H2Y 1E6

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Nous avons le bonheur de vous annoncer la venue au monde de notre petite **Emma-Jeanne Bellemare**, née le **vendredi, 15 novembre 2013 à 07h39**. Emma-Jeanne est née très rapidement (et l'anesthésiste n'était pas disponible au moment souhaité)... Un petit bébé de 7 lbs. et de 53 cm, patiente, tranquille et éveillée. Elle fait le bonheur de ses 2 mamans, **Julie Bérubé et Lyne Bellemare**, et de sa grande soeur de 3 1/2 ans, **Adèle Bellemare**.

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.com, or drop in anytime to Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10h00 to 12h15, and stay for a light lunch and meet some of the members!

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

The 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, 110, rue Ste-Thérèse, bureau 405, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1E6. 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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♦ 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