



NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XVIII - No. 2 – December 2016

7 Year Research project with UQAM

By Mona Greenbaum, director of the LGBT Family Coalition

Since its outset, almost 20 years ago, the LGBT Family Coalition has been involved in a vast variety of research projects.

So it has been very exciting to see a superb 7-year project, spear-headed by UQAM's Research Chair on Homophobia, get significant funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The LGBT Family Coalition has been involved in many collaborative projects with the research chair since the chair's inception in 2011.

The project called *Savoirs sur l'inclusion et l'exclusion des personnes LGBTQ (SAVie)* will look at the current situation for the LGBTQ community in Quebec/Canada. In Canada, the recognition of rights for LGBTQ people has advanced considerably in the past few decades, from the decriminalization of homosexuality in 1969 to the introduction of same-sex marriage in 2005. In Quebec we obtained family rights in 2002. However, this legal equality is problematic: it doesn't guarantee social equality; it is selective in the populations it applies to - for instance trans people still don't have formal protection against discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act and certain LGBT family forms are still not legally protected; and it can breed other, more subtle forms of exclusion and discrimination. Therefore, even though most LGBTQ people in Québec/Canada theoretically benefit from formal legal equality, some still confront experiences of denigration and rejection, depriving them of respect on both personal and institutional levels.

The objectives of this 7-year research program are three-fold:

- 1) Documenting contemporary forms of inclusion and exclusion of LGBTQ people 18 years and older;
- 2) Understanding the life courses and journeys of inclusion and exclusion reported by LGBTQ people from various age groups;
- 3) Critically analyzing recent public policies from Quebec and Canada aimed at promoting inclusion of LGBTQ people.

By doing so, we will benefit from a unique opportunity to study the experiences of LGBTQ people – of diverse ages and journeys – who have lived through legal and political changes specific to Quebec/Canada at various stages of their life courses. Besides personal experiences in domains such as family, work environment and social networks – domains central to the social integration of LGBTQ people – this research program aims to analyze the way that public policies regarding LGBTQ people are constructed and can indirectly contribute to reproduce forms of exclusion.

Anchored in the Research Chair on Homophobia at the *Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)*, this project stems from and enriches tried and tested partnerships and scientific collaborations. The research team includes 21 university researchers, 33 field researchers (Mona Greenbaum, director of the Coalition is one of them), and 48 partner organizations from Canada (the LGBT Family Coalition is

one of them) and three other francophone countries. Besides the substantial financial support from the *Université du Québec à Montréal*, 9 other research establishments bring notable contributions, including one in France, one in Belgium and one in Switzerland.

Once results start pouring in, online tools, such as a web platform and on-line courses will be developed in order to reach out to hundreds of professionals from community organizations, social services and health care, and provide them with information and training on sexual and gender diversity. These tools will allow professionals to be trained from a distance (across the province of Québec, but also elsewhere in Canada and in other francophone countries) and free of charge. The LGBT Family Coalition will be closely involved in this part of the project that involves knowledge transfer.

The research will produce updated information on inclusion and exclusion of LGBTQ people, and as such, will support the creation of programs and services better aimed at targeting the most marginalized people in this population. At a time where LGBTQ rights remain internationally debated, this research program aims to develop knowledge of the range of experiences of inclusion/exclusion of LGBTQ people living in a context of so-called legal equality and inclusive public policies. What we learn from this project will serve as a road map for the development of resources and programs, as well as for our activist work, for the years to come.

Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to info@famillesLGBT.org or by post to CF-LGBT, 3155, rue Hochelaga, suite 201, Montreal, Quebec, H1W 1G4
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News Briefs

Quebec News

September 27 - The Quebec Minister of Justice, Stéphanie Vallée, is planning to legalise surrogacy. "I think it's time we had a frank discussion on that issue," Vallée *told La Presse*. "Society has changed. Surrogacy seems to be desired by some couples. This is more common than it was in the early 80s or 90s. And so we need to address the issue head on. "

In the absence of clear guidelines, Quebec couples are turning to surrogate mothers in developing countries where impoverished women will offer their womb under conditions that, in the words of the minister, "send chills up her spine."

The government is yet to define the "broad guidelines" to "allow our family law on this aspect, to evolve and modernize."

"Bills of this nature command a lot of work and reflection because there is a link to international law, to Canadian law, and to medicine. We're on it," she says.

Quebec's initiative responds to the fact that Canadian surrogacy is booming, partly because India, Thailand and Mexico have shut their doors entirely or partially and partly because of Canada's universal health care system. Across the border in the United States, clients are charged health insurance for the surrogate mother, adding substantially to the cost.

However, Canadian surrogates still operate in a grey zone. Strictly speaking, commercial surrogacy is banned, although payment for reasonable expenses is permitted. And the birth mother is deemed the legal mother unless she surrenders her rights. If she changes her mind, her clients might walk away without a baby.

A specific timeline for a proposed bill was not discussed.

October 7 - The Quebec government is proposing changes to the province's adoption laws that it says will lift the "total secrecy" of the process and allow consenting children and parents greater access to information. Justice Minister Stéphanie Vallée has introduced the series of amendments as Bill 113 in the National Assembly. The changes mainly affect Quebec's Civil Code and the Youth Protection Act.

The new rules would:

- Allow adopted children to maintain "meaningful" connections with their birth parents.
- Recognize Aboriginal customary adoption.
- Bring international adoptions into compliance with Quebec's Civil Code.
- Improve access to information.

Vallée said the changes are meant to "modernize" and bring greater openness to Quebec's adoption rules, adding that the amendments reflect society's changing values and standards.

Under the proposed changes, "pre-existing bonds of filiation" would be recognized if there is proof that it is in the interest of a child to maintain "meaningful identification" with his or her birth parent. However, no rights or obligations would exist between the birth parents and the child.

Vallée said the days when social values mandated that adoptions be handled in "total secrecy" are over. The new rules would allow an adopted child and his or her birth parents to learn about each other's identity and medical records and establish contact unless either party has requested that their identity not be disclosed. The identification of minors would not be disclosed "until the minor reaches full age, unless he or she decides otherwise," the bill reads.

Bill 113 would also allow for agreements between the adoptive family and the birth family, to permit them to exchange information about the child and "interpersonal relationships."

For adoptions that took place before the introduction of Bill 113, requested vetoes will remain in place, and birth parents who don't want their identity disclosed but haven't registered a veto will be given time to do so. Vetoes would expire one year after the death of the person who requested it, Vallée said.

October 28 – Montréal Pride will organize the first edition of Canada Pride from **August 11 to 20, 2017**, as a nation-wide celebration of Canada's LGBT movement, reaffirming the position of Montréal and of Canada as leaders in LGBT rights. Montréal Pride will host the festive and inspiring ten-day event to welcome Canada and the world to Montréal as it marks the 375th anniversary of the city's founding and the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation.

Unlike Montréal Pride's annual festival, which is held over seven days, the **Canada Pride Montréal 2017** program of events in 2017 will span ten days, including two full weekends of activities, similar to WorldPride and EuroPride. The program will include two days of sports activities during the first weekend of celebrations and a major national conference on LGBT rights.

An initiative of Montréal Pride, **Canada Pride** will be held in a different Canadian city every four years. The project presented by Montréal Pride received unanimous support from Canadian Pride representatives from across the country at Fierté Canada Pride's annual general meeting, which was held in Saskatoon in February 2015.

Canada News

September 6 – Alberta Education Minister David Eggen says he has not ruled out defunding a Christian school board that has refused to comply with legislation on gay-straight-alliances (GSAs). "Absolutely," Eggen told CBC News. "It's one of the options." Eggen sent a letter to the board chair of the Baptist Christian Education Society demanding written assurance that GSAs will be allowed at its two Edmonton schools, as required under the School Act.

"I just wanted the school and the pastor to know the gravity of the situation," said Eggen, adding withdrawing funds is just one option. "We're talking about the welfare of children and school so it's very important to try to work something out that is sensible."

The school's pastor, Brian Coldwell, said he would not allow "gay activists" to undermine the Society's ministries, religious freedoms or "confuse and corrupt our children."

Critics have raised a number of concerns with the "Inclusive Communities policy" submitted by Edmonton Catholic schools. They said the policy still fails to protect LGBTQ students and allows the teachings of the Edmonton Catholic church to prevail over human rights.

September 20 - Pride Toronto has apologized for "deepening the divisions" in the LGBT community and for "a history of anti-blackness." The organization said in a statement signed by its board of directors that it received more than 1,100 emails and heard from more than 700 people at its town hall meetings. The statement follows controversy over its parade in Toronto.

In July, the Pride parade was temporarily blocked by a Black Lives Matter Toronto protest. The event resumed 30 minutes later after top Pride executives agreed to a list of demands for next year's festival, including a ban on police floats in the festival's penultimate march.

The next day, Pride Toronto's former leader, Mathieu Chantelois, said the organization never agreed to exclude police from its events, but would have discussions with the force about what its future involvement would look like.

Pride Toronto said it will use its dispute resolution process to determine the nature of police participation at future Pride events

Ravyn Wngz, a member of Black Lives Matter Toronto, says the group didn't expect the statement from Pride Toronto but it appreciates the response. She said BLMTO still wants to see action on its demands. "All of the things that they apologized for are deeply appreciated but we still need action plans," she said.

September 30 - The federal government plans to tighten and clarify the regulations dealing with assisted reproduction. Health Canada is outlining a number of proposed changes to the rules that are part of the 2004 Assisted Human Reproduction Act.

The act was the subject of a 2010 Supreme Court of Canada ruling, which found some parts fell under provincial jurisdiction, while leaving a number of sections intact. The court let stand portions concerning the protection of health and safety, enforcement and the reimbursement of donors and surrogates; the new regulations being proposed will bring those sections into force.

Among other things, they will clarify eligible reimbursable expenses for parties involved in surrogacy arrangements and semen and egg donation. They will also update regulations governing the safety of donor semen and move them from the Food and Drugs Act to the assisted reproduction law. Finally, the government plans to develop regulations for testing and screening egg donors and develop rules for tracing donations.

"Our laws need to adapt so that they can continue to protect the health and safety of Canadians. By adopting new regulations, we will continue to ensure that the risks posed are minimized and families are supported," Health Minister Jane Philpott said in a statement.

October 18 - A bill meant to enshrine the rights of transgender people by adding gender identity and expression to human rights and hate crime laws is heading to the justice committee. The House of Commons voted by a margin of 248 to 40 to pass the legislation, known as Bill C-16, at second reading.

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould and New Democrat MP Nathan Cullen – political rivals who have found common ground on the issue of trans rights – hugged each other on the floor of the House after the vote.

The legislation would, if passed, make it illegal under the Canadian Human Rights Act to deny someone a job – or otherwise discriminate against them in the workplace – on the basis of the gender they identify with or outwardly express. It would also amend the Criminal Code so that gender identity and expression would be included in hate speech laws.

The bill will ultimately have to get through the Senate, where an earlier private member's bill put forward by NDP MP Randall Garrison was gutted and died when the 2015 election was called.

A new opinion poll appears to show the public firmly on the side of transgender Canadians. Eighty-four per cent of people surveyed by the Angus Reid Institute said they would support adding gender identity as a prohibited ground for discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act — one of several questions in a poll on transgender issues where a firm majority said Canadians should "accept, accommodate, and move on."

The poll "paints a picture of an accommodating, tolerant society – one that views increasing acceptance of transgender people as a sign of social progress," said the institute in a statement.

October 25 - Lucas Medina knows that there's a problem with Ontario's foster care system. After all, he grew up as a Crown ward. And from what he can see, the situation hasn't changed much in the years since he was a gay teenager trying to survive the system.

"It's just amazing to me that we've failed these youth to this degree," he says. That's why Medina felt compelled to start the first LGBT foster agency in the province. Five/Fourteen, which Medina launched with his husband, Chad Craig, in Windsor, Ontario, will help place queer and trans foster children into welcoming homes.

While there are few statistics available on how many queer and trans youth are in foster care in Ontario, studies from other jurisdictions show that LGBT youth tend to be overrepresented in the system. According to a recent report from an advisory committee for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, many queer and trans youth feel that foster care in Ontario simply isn't safe for them. The committee slammed the province, saying that the lack of programming and initiatives to address the concerns of LGBT youth in care is, "incongruent with Ontario's values."

Five/Fourteen now has around 30 youth on a waitlist to be placed with families and over 140 applications from potential foster families in cities like Toronto, Windsor, London and Ottawa.

November 1 - The Trudeau government has been hit by a class-action lawsuit, filed in both Ontario and Quebec, involving former public servants and members of the military who lost their jobs because of their sexual orientation. The suit is asking for \$600 million for claimants outside of Quebec and an undefined amount for those inside the province, where the litigation laws are different.

Doug Elliott, a long-time gay rights activist and Toronto lawyer, is leading the case. He estimated that there could as many as 9,000 people eligible to join in it, many of them persecuted and hounded from their jobs over almost four decades.

The Liberal government is planning an apology to the LGBT community for the past discrimination, but it's unclear when it will act, and Elliott said the community is tired of waiting, especially in light of the fact many cases are decades old and the claimants are aging. "I am not going to have Mr. Trudeau apologize to a cemetery," Elliott said.

One of the outstanding questions is whether the apology will be tied to some form of compensation. A report presented to the Liberals last June by the human rights group Egale, which Elliott helped author, urged the government to examine how to compensate those who had suffered past discrimination. The organization said such a plan could involve individual compensation, funding for programs and services, or a mixture of both.

November 14 - The Liberal government has introduced legislation to repeal a Criminal Code provision on anal intercourse that critics and courts say is unconstitutional and discriminates against gay and bisexual men.

"A lot of Canadians think that when Pierre Trudeau said 'the state had no business in the bedrooms of the nation' back in the '60s, that that meant this law was repealed," said Douglas Elliott, a Toronto-based lawyer and longtime gay rights activist. "But in fact, all they did was create an exemption — an exemption that has always discriminated against gay men."

Section 159 of the Criminal Code currently says that anyone who engages in anal intercourse is guilty of an indictable offence — facing up to 10 years in prison — or an offence punishable on summary conviction. There are exceptions for heterosexual married couples and consenting adults of either sex over the age of 18, so long as there are only two of them and the activity takes place without anyone else in the room.

The age of consent for heterosexual sex is 16 years of age, meaning that a common sexual act between a young gay couple is criminalized while a different sexual act engaged in by a straight couple of the same age is not.

November 15 - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has named an Edmonton MP as his special adviser on LGBTQ2 issues.

Randy Boissonnault will work with advocacy groups to promote equality for lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirited people. Boissonnault, who represents the Edmonton Centre riding, will also lead federal efforts to address historical and current discrimination against LGBTQ2 people. He will, however, stay on as parliamentary secretary to the minister of Canadian Heritage.

The government says the appointment is part of its broader efforts to ensure that all Canadians are treated equally and with respect.

LGBT Marriage News

September 11 - Aruba gives its same-sex couples the right to legally register their unions and to receive benefits equivalent to those afforded to married couples. The constituent country of the Netherlands had recognised same-sex marriages performed in the Netherlands, but in order for same-sex couples to be legally recognised as married in Aruba, they were previously forced to travel to the Netherlands and then back to Aruba.

This latest development means same-sex couples can have legal recognition equivalent to marriage without having to travel to Europe.

Aruba is a 32km-long island in the Caribbean Sea.

September 14 The chances of **Australians** having their say on same-sex marriage is fading rapidly after strong hints from the main opposition party that it'll block the vote.

The country's conservative Liberal government had planned to hold a national plebiscite, similar to a referendum, on whether or not to allow gay couples to marry in February 2017. But the opposition Labor Party said the government should simply make same sex marriage legal without a national vote, avoiding a vicious debate over LGBT rights and savings millions of dollars in election funding.

Australia is one of the last Western countries without legal same sex marriage, which has already been introduced in the United States, New Zealand, France, Canada and the United Kingdom.

About 57% of Australians support same sex marriage, according to a recent Essential polling survey. "This will be the 22nd marriage equality bill in Australia and we still haven't got (LGBT) marriage and at a certain point we have to think, what are we doing wrong here?" Australian Marriage Equality director Tiernan Brady told CNN.

September 14 - 65% of **French** citizens and 53% of conservative voters are in favour of maintaining the law of Mariage for All when the next president of the Republic is elected, according to an IFOP survey for the organisation *Les familles homoparentales*.

According to the survey, 63 % of people questioned said that a gay couple with children "constitutes a complete family," but while assisted procreation is considered acceptable, surrogacy is less favourable. 57% were in favour for heterosexual couples but 56% were against the idea for gay couples.

When asked if children born of surrogacy in other countries should have the the same rights as other children in France, 64% answered yes and that they should be legally registered in the civil registry.

September 17 - **Rome** hosts its first same-sex civil union. The ceremony, which is officiated by newly-elected Mayor Virginia Raggi, sees Francesco Raffaele Villarusso and Luca De Sario tie the knot.

September 23 - **Guernsey** in the Channel Islands votes to legalize same-sex marriage, meaning there's only one part of the UK holding out: Northern Ireland is now the only part of the UK that has not legislated for marriage equality.

October 31 - Tens of thousands of people fill the streets of **Taipei** for Asia's biggest gay pride parade, calling on Taiwan's new government to legalise same-sex marriage. Many of the attendees hope that same-sex marriage will soon become a reality under Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which is in control of parliament for the first time. Taiwan is one of the region's most progressive societies when it comes to gay rights, but legal reform on marriage equality has remained stagnant due to resistance from the Kuomintang (KMT) party, which dominated politics for decades before being unseated by the DPP in May. President Tsai Ing-wen has openly supported marriage equality and said she would respect any decision reached by parliament.

International News

September 2 (Buzzfeed) Schools have been left ill-equipped to properly support LGBTI students after a nationwide scare campaign against the Safe Schools program misinformed parents about the nature of the anti-bullying program. A student welfare support worker in a regional area of **Australia** said she had struggled to explain the anti-bullying program to parents after an effective campaign led by conservative media, politicians and lobby groups left the name of the program in the mud.

“They’re just scared of what they don’t understand,” she said. “As soon as I said ‘Safe Schools’, you could see it in their faces. ‘We don’t want our kids indoctrinated’.”

Last week, NSW MP Damian Tudehope presented a petition of more than 17,000 signatures, largely from the Chinese-Australian community, to state parliament calling for the program to be shut down.

Labor MP Penny Sharpe, who has started a counter-petition, said that the information provided around Tudehope’s petition was inaccurate. “What’s been lost is that it’s made an incredibly positive difference in the lives of many students.”

September 14 (Pink News) For the first time ever, students will be able to gain a postgraduate degree in Queer History at Goldsmiths, University of **London**. The historic university announced plans for the new course, alongside the proposed creation of a National Queer Archive.

A small number of other universities in the UK offer postgraduate qualifications in gender, sexuality and culture, while some US institutions offer Queer Studies – but Goldsmiths will be the first university to offer a specialist MA in Queer History.

September 17 (Jakarta Post) In what can be seen as another attack on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in **Indonesia**, the government has decided to ban apps designed for LGBT people due to allegations that they are being used to facilitate child prostitution rings. The decision was made after a meeting between representatives from the Communications and Information Ministry, the National Police, the Religious Affairs Ministry, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) and other related stakeholders.

“We have sent an email to Google to block Grindr, BoyAhoy and Blued because these applications promote the LGBT lifestyle and sexual deviance,” Noor Iza, a spokesman from the Communications and information Ministry, said. He added that this was just the beginning. Similar apps are currently under investigation and could be blacklisted as well.

“They have made a false link between pedophilia and homosexuality. These two things are completely unrelated. Blocking apps for LGBT people will not solve the problem of online child prostitution,” Arus Pelangi secretary Ryan Korbarri told *The Jakarta Post*.

September 18 (The Independent) Two men who are openly gay are standing in the **Russian** elections in a challenge to Vladimir Putin and the ruling party, United Russia. Aleksei Korolyov, 29, and 33-year-old Bulat Barantayev are thought to be the first LGBT people ever to stand in the State Duma, the lower house of the Federal Assembly. Both outspoken gay rights activists, the men strongly object to the gay “propaganda” law. Passed in 2013, the law makes it illegal to equate straight and gay relationships or to promote gay rights in any way.

Both activists are running for the pro-Europe People’s Freedom Party (Parnas). Mr Barantayev has called for Putin to be impeached and the government to be rid of corruption. Although neither Mr Korolyov or Mr Barantayev believe they have any chance of being elected, they hope that by standing they will progress discussion about gay rights.

September 20 (The Advocate) Steven Anderson, the anti-LGBT pastor who was banned from entering South Africa, has been deported from **Botswana**. The Botswana government issued a statement via Twitter, calling Anderson a “prohibited immigrant” who was not welcome in the country.

Anderson is the leader of Faithful Word Baptist Church in Tempe, Arizona, which has been labeled a hate group by the civil rights group Southern Law Poverty Center. The pastor was detained by immigration officials after an interview he did with national radio station Gabz FM in the capital city of Gaborone. The pastor told the radio station that the Botswana government should be killing LGBT people and that anyone who engages in adultery should be executed by stoning.

Anderson's evangelical trip that was going to start in South Africa is part of what he called a "soul-winning marathon." The pastor was banned from South Africa after LGBT activists lobbied the government to prevent his entry because of his reputation for hateful anti-LGBT rhetoric.

After Anderson was barred from entering South Africa by the South African Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba, the pastor bragged on his personal Facebook page, saying, "Thank God we still have a wide open door in Botswana. Stand by for reports of MULTITUDES saved in Botswana, where religious freedom still exists."

The Arizona pastor is known for spreading anti-LGBT hate at his church. After 49 people lost their lives in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Anderson said, "Obviously, it's not right for someone to just shoot up the place because that's not going through the proper channels. But these people all should have been killed anyway."

September 27 (CBS News) Organizers of a cultural festival in **Haiti** celebrating the Afro-Caribbean LGBTQ community said that it has been called off due to numerous threats of violence and a subsequent prohibition by a government commissioner. The four-day Massimadi film, art and performance event was supposed to start in the capital, Port-au-Prince, but organizers said it had to be postponed as a prominent Haitian cultural institution known as FOKAL and other co-hosts were threatened with arson and other attacks.

"FOKAL has been receiving threats of outrageous violence," said Lorraine Mangones, executive director of the nonprofit Knowledge & Freedom Foundation.

Jedy Charlot of the gay rights group Kouraj, the main organizer of the event, said he is determined that the arts festival by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Haitians and their supporters will be held at a later date. "There are very homophobic people who are against it, and the government official who is responsible for the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince has also taken a decision to prevent the festival for now," said Charlot. "But we still plan on holding Massimadi in the future."

September 30 (Global News) The Human Rights Council has appointed international human rights expert Vitit Muntarbhorn of Thailand as the first **U.N.** independent expert charged with investigating violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

John Fisher, Geneva director of Human Rights Watch, said his appointment "made history" and "will bring much-needed attention to human rights violations against LGBT people in all regions of the world."

Muntarbhorn, a law professor, has been on the council's Commission of Inquiry on Syria and previously served as U.N. special investigator on North Korea and on child prostitution and child pornography. He co-chaired a meeting of experts that adopted the Yogyakarta Principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

October 6 (Association faitière Familles arc-en-ciel) In June 2016 the **Swiss** Parliament accomplished a first step for family rights by voting in favour of stepchild adoption. The National Council put the focus on the well-being of the children, providing them with legal protection regardless of their parents' civil status.

At the time, activist Maria von Känel said, "This is a happy day for all families, and we are glad to see the positive developments in terms of family law. This legislative amendment will rectify a discriminatory situation and grant the right of every child to recognition of his or her family, thereby safeguarding children of rainbow families. We hope this law will soon be adopted. But should there be a referendum, we call on the Swiss population to vote for children's rights and the protection of all families."

Co-parent adoption for same sex couples will now become a reality. A referendum will not be held because the group 'No for adoption rights' failed to get the minimum number of signatures necessary to hold the

referendum. "We are relieved and overjoyed," said Martin della Valle, co-president of the *Association faitière Familles arc-en-ciel*. « A referendum would have uselessly prolonged the legal insecurity of thousands of Swiss children and perpetuated discrimination against these families. Today we feel recognized."

October 11 (IB Times) A **Russian** website supporting LGBT teenagers is set to be banned by the state's media watchdog, the site's founder announced. Founded in 2013 by Yelena Klimova, Deti-404 was a safe haven for LGBT youths in Russia to discuss their struggles and seek support.

The governmental media watchdog Roskomnadzor said the website was illegally promoting "non-traditional relationships" to children and spreading banned information.

Deti-404 also provided free counselling for adolescents from volunteer psychologists.

October 13 (Pink News) **France** has approved new gender recognition rules for trans people that separate the legal recognition process from medical treatment. The French parliament has voted to introduce a new legal gender recognition mechanism that makes it easier for trans people to gain recognition as their legal gender.

Under the updated process, trans people will no longer have to be sterilised before being legally recognised in their true gender. In addition to this, there will be no requirement to provide proof of medical treatment, as had been proposed in amendments introduced earlier by the Senate.

However, the law falls short of campaigners' hopes on a number of issues, lacking access to gender recognition for young transgender people, and not permitting people to self-determine their gender. This means that trans people will still have to go to court to have their gender legally recognised.

October 16 (Reuters) Thousands of opponents of gay marriage took to the streets of **Paris** to defend their vision of family values, hoping to revive the issue in political debates ahead of next year's presidential election. About 24,000 people took part in the demonstration, police said, far fewer than the several hundreds of thousands the group "Demo for All" mobilised in 2012 and 2013 in an unexpectedly strong show of opposition from conservatives, especially Roman Catholics.

Organisers of the protest aim to pressure politicians on the right, who face a presidential primary next month, to agree to repeal the law if they are elected president.

The protesters marched through prosperous western sections of Paris, waving French flags and the "Demo for All" movement's blue and pink colours. Some held signs declaring "All together for the family" and "In 2017, I'll vote for the family."

November 7 (Salon) A **French** court has ruled that calling someone a "homophobe" is akin to a hateful slur. Judges fined Laure Pora, the former head of the Paris chapter of ACT UP, 2,300 euros for using the term during a 2013 demonstration against the pro-life group Lejeune Foundation and La Manif Pour Tous. The latter is an anti-marriage equality outfit that has frequently protested same-sex unions in the state since right-to-wed legislation passed in 2013. Gay activists posted xeroxed fliers featuring Ludovine de La Rochère, the group's president, with the word "homophobe" over her face.

This is an unfortunate blow to equal rights in a country that remains rocked by protests three years later. Calling out anti-gay bigotry is one of the most important tools that activists have at their disposal, the ability to raise awareness about the persistence of prejudice simply by naming it. Taking away that tool means taking away the voice of the marginalized during a time when LGBT people are already extremely vulnerable to the forces of hate.

November 9 (sexualminoritiesuganda.com) Sexual Minorities **Uganda** (SMUG), represented by the American Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and co-counsel, appeared in court to argue that a federal lawsuit against Abiding Truth Ministries President Scott Lively must go to trial. Twelve members of SMUG traveled from Uganda for the argument, and one activist came from Latvia, where Lively has also worked to deprive the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) community of their fundamental rights.

The case, Sexual Minorities Uganda v. Lively, alleges that Lively's active participation in the effort aimed at revoking fundamental rights from LGBTI persons in Uganda renders him liable for persecution, a crime against humanity. Lively failed to have the case dismissed outright in 2013 and is now, after three years of discovery and depositions, seeking summary judgment to keep it from going to trial.

"We have overwhelming evidence in this case that the persecution of the LGBTI community is rampant in Uganda and Scott Lively worked closely with other anti-gay leaders in our country to deprive us of our fundamental human rights," said SMUG Executive Director Dr Frank Mugisha, who was one of the LGBTI activists arrested in August during a violent police raid of a Pride event. "We hope the judge will rule in our favor and allow our case to go to trial so we can bring Scott Lively to justice for what he has done to our community."

The lawsuit against Lively was filed in March 2012. SMUG is suing him for his work with Ugandan anti-gay leaders to systematically deprive the LGBTI community of their fundamental rights in violation of international law. The case affirmed an important legal principle that arose from Nuremberg, when the court ruled, in a historic decision denying Lively's motion to dismiss, that persecution on the basis of any group identity, including sexual orientation and gender identity, is a crime against humanity – a serious crime under international law.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DECEMBER 2016

◆ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH FROM 2 – 5 PM**

MONTREAL: FOR ALL ADULTS AND KIDS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY: ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

THE LGBT Family Coalition, Gender Creative Kids and PFLAG-Montreal invite you to our annual holiday party! There will be activities and crafts for kids and adults alike, a fabulous magic show and, of course, a visit from Santa. For our buffet please bring along something good to share with others. You can bring anything you like in the categories of either **salad, main dish, dessert or beverage (e.g. juice or soft-drinks)**. Please do not bring anything with peanuts onto the premises because of allergies.

Location: Centre communautaire de loisirs Sainte Catherine d'Alexendrie, 1700 rue Amherst (Metro Beaudry), in the gay village.

◆ **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 7:00 P.M.**

MONTREAL: CONFERENCE «INTERSECTIONS ET INTERACTIONS ENTRE PARCOURS TRANS ET PARENTALITÉ»

Speaker: Marie-Pier Petit, PhD candidate

Location: UQAM, N-7050 du pavillon Paul Gérin-Lajoie, 1205 rue Saint-Denis

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR MORE DETAILS

JANUARY 2017

◆ **SUNDAY JANUARY 22ND AT 11:00 A.M.**

MONTREAL: BOWLING PARTY FOR LGBT FAMILIES AT BOWLING DARLING

Details to follow...

◆ **MONDAY JANUARY 23rd AT 10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.**
MONTREAL: GET-TOGETHER FOR YOUNG PARENTS

Discussion group for parents with young children (up to about 2 years old)
Discussion group for parents on the topic chosen by parents who are present
Espresso for the parents and snacks for all.

Location: L'espace café at the boutique La Culotte à l'Envers, 3162 Masson, Montréal, H1Y 1Y1
Please RSVP with Emilie ejouvin@hotmail.com or on the Facebook page of the Coalition

BULLETIN BOARD:

◆ **Le Centre des femmes du Verdun** offre l'écoute individuelle pour lesbiennes les mercredis de 9 h – 12 h et une série 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](http://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.cdfdrp.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@famillesLGBT.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@famillesLGBT.org or by post to CF-LGBT,

3155, rue Hochelaga, bureau 201, Montreal, Quebec, H1W 1G4. 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.

