



NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XVIII - No. 1 – September 2016

Being part of a community

By Mona Greenbaum, director of the LGBT Family Coalition

As director of the LGBT Family Coalition, once again at this time of year, I find myself sitting in front of a blank page, with 3 goals in mind:

- 1) I have to convince you to renew your membership to the LGBT Family Coalition or to become a member for the first time, by letting you know what a great organization the Coalition is.
- 2) I have to motivate you to pay your membership and hopefully give us a donation to help continue to promote the legal and social recognition of our families.
- 3) I'm hoping to inspire you to volunteer your skills to help work on important causes that affect our families.

Here's my usual approach:

For our older members, I remind you of the battles we've already won: obtaining the right to have both parents in our families legally recognized; securing access to fertility clinics and adoption; winning the right to marry; increasing the visibility of our families in schools and other public institutions; etc. The Coalition was at the forefront of all these advances!

For newer members, I speak about how the Coalition is pushing for change: having surrogacy legally recognized in Quebec; giving children with trans parents proper birth certificates that reflect who their parents are; gaining back RAMQ coverage of fertility treatments (including preservation of fertility for people who are transitioning); minimizing wait times before DPJ adoptions are finalized; continuing the fight against homophobia and transphobia in schools and social services; and most of all, making sure that the realities of our families are represented in our children's everyday environment, not as something to be tolerated, but rather as a richness and an asset to the school and to the community.

And for all parents and future parents I would like to remind you how important it is not only for us, but for our children, to have a community that we all belong to and actively participate in.

For future parents, this means having other parents and future parents to compare notes with and to answer your questions, not only through Facebook posts, but also in person, at our events where lifetime friendships are often forged.

For those with kids, it means letting them know, whether at the big sugar shack party, our picnics or at Pride, that they are not alone, and that they are not the only ones to have a family that differs a bit from the norm. And of course, sending them a strong message that being different is cool!

For everyone, it means participating in a social justice movement, whether by sharing your opinion or experiences, by attending a conference and learning more about your community, or simply by being visible to your neighbours, friends and family. The Coalition has been at the centre of this community and this movement in Quebec for nearly 20 years!

Here are some quick facts. Over the past year we...

- trained over 3000 professionals who work with youth and families to be more open and inclusive about LGBT youth and families
- sensitized future teachers in Quebec's 12 education faculties
- created new resources, including 7 new classroom activities for teachers on sexual and gender diversity (www.famillesLGBT.org/tools)
- wrote a brief about the reform of family law including recommendations for surrogacy because there is a good possibility of an upcoming parliamentary commission
- organized 26 family activities across Quebec
- distributed 4 newsletters to our members with local and world-wide current events and upcoming activities for our families
- advocated for a law that allows trans youth to change gender on their official documents
- travelled to 15 of the 18 administrative regions of Quebec to do our work
- clocked more than 5000 hours of volunteer time from our members
- spoke out in over 30 interviews on LGBT family issues
- gave our opinion in a public consultation regarding the next 5-year government action plan against homophobia and transphobia (2017-2022).

Through your memberships and donations we can do more and our impact can be even greater. So help us out by (re)joining the Coalition. Memberships begin with the school year in September. This does not only mean adding your name to the list of our Facebook group. It means going to our site: www.familleslgbt.org/membership and:

Filling out the form.

Paying your membership dues (and helping out, if you can, by adding on a bit extra).

And letting us know if you can spare some time to volunteer for the cause!

In solidarity!

Mona

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
.....

News Briefs

Quebec News

June 2 – Couples or individuals who are undergoing assisted procreation will not have to pay for the costly medications associated with different procedures. Health minister Gaéтан Barrette has decided to follow the recommendations of the *Institut national d'excellence en santé et en service sociaux* (INESSS). The minister recommended that medications that are used strictly for ovarian stimulation or other procedures outside of in vitro fertilization should be covered by RAMQ, so free for the patient, for reasons of 'equity'. This new directive comes into effect in mid June.

Bill 20, tabled by the minister, terminated free in vitro fertilizations. But couples or individuals that undergo these treatments are still eligible for tax credits.

June 6 - *According to a survey conducted by the Fondation Émergence* for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, 66% of Quebecers consider that it is difficult for homosexual seniors to be openly in a relationship in a seniors' residence. The survey carried out by Léger Marketing was in line with this year's campaign about the realities of elderly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

For Claude Leblond, the president of *Fondation Émergence*, this raises serious questions about the efforts being made by seniors' residences to be inclusive towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals:

"This perception of Quebecers and Canadians confirms the results of studies and our observations in the field. Many LGBT seniors feel uncomfortable revealing their sexual orientation, identity or gender expression. They become invisible in their living environments."

June 10 - The Quebec government has adopted *Bill 103: An Act to strengthen the fight against transphobia and improve the situation of transgender minors*. The legislation, tabled by Justice minister Stéphanie Vallée, allows transgender teenagers aged 14 and above to seek permission to legally change their name and gender designation on their birth certificates, through a simple administrative process. For children under 14, if one of the parents objects, the dispute can be resolved before a judge, and the best interests of the child will be taken into account.

In several other provinces, including British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, it is also possible for minors to change their sex.

The legislation also modifies the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms so that all discrimination related to gender identity is explicitly prohibited. The Trudeau government recently tabled legislation to guarantee legal and human rights protection for all transgender Canadians. If it is adopted, Bill C-16 would add the terms "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code.

June 16 - Saying she's through with being afraid of what people think of her, singer-songwriter Béatrice Martin, better known by her stage name Coeur de pirate, has penned a letter revealing she is queer. The letter, published as a blog, recounts how the native Montrealer was still reeling from the shooting of former *The Voice* contestant Christina Grimmie when she heard about the Orlando shooting. The shooting in a gay club left 49 people dead and 53 people injured, some of them critically. "That is why I'm coming out as queer today," she wrote. "I can't be scared that someone will stop listening to my music, or that parents might not want their kids listening to me because of the fact that I want to love whoever I want to love."

In the letter she writes about having romantic feelings for girls when she was around six years old. She said it was "traumatizing" when a girl she had a crush on began to ignore her after finding out about her feelings. In

response, she decided to live her life as a heterosexual. But after the birth of her daughter, the feelings she repressed "came rushing back."

"I'm coming out for my daughter who needs to learn that love knows no race, religion, gender or orientation," she said.

June 21 - The director of Montreal's Ovo Fertility Clinic, Dr. François Bissonnette, will be before the disciplinary committee of Quebec's College of Physicians and Surgeons in July. He will be facing complaints about the disrespect of a patient's free choice, inadequately maintaining medical files and giving insufficient information to a patient.

The spokesperson of the College of physicians, Caroline Langis, explained that Dr. Bissonnette will appear before the disciplinary committee, from July 11-14 in Montréal.

Dr. Bissonnette is also facing a civil suit from a Sherbrooke woman who claims to have been sterilized against her will when Dr. Bissonnette mistakenly removed both of her fallopian tubes even though she only had a problem with one. She is suing for 375 000 \$ to cover in vitro fertilization fees because she can't conceive a child otherwise.

August 14 – Canadian Prime minister Justin Trudeau, Quebec premier Philippe Couillard and a number of other ministers and representatives from across the political spectrum, took part in Montreal's pride parade. Montreal mayor, Denis Coderre, participated as well.

Having already participated in Toronto's and Vancouver's pride parades in July, Justin Trudeau, elected in the Montreal riding of Papineau, had already participated in Montreal pride celebrations, but this was the first time that he joined the parade as Canada's Prime Minister. Trudeau is currently the only head of government in the G7 countries to have marched in a pride parade.

Canada News

June 20 - Health Canada has cleared the way for gay men who abstain from sex for at least one year to donate blood — a policy shift that falls short of the Liberal Party's election pledge to eliminate the waiting period entirely.

Men who have sex with men are currently barred from blood donations if they were sexually active within the past 5 years, a waiting period that advocates call far too onerous and blatantly discriminatory. Before 2013, there was a blanket ban on all donations from men engaged in same-sex intercourse.

Canadian Blood Services, the agency that oversees the national supply of blood and blood products, applied to Health Canada earlier this year to reduce the waiting period. Now approved, the change will take effect across the country on Aug. 15.

Federal prime minister, Justin Trudeau has said that he believes that the ban should be removed completely and that criteria should be based on sexual behaviour rather than belonging or not to a given identity group.

June 20 - The Hanover School Division in southern Manitoba is facing a human rights complaint over a policy that prohibits its teachers from talking about sexual orientation or gender identity in some classrooms.

The Public Interest Law Centre announced that it has submitted a complaint to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission on behalf of Michelle McHale and Karen Phillips, a common-law couple from the Steinbach, Man., area. The couple alleges that one of their children was bullied at school for having two moms.

When McHale complained to the school principal, she was told a division policy forbids any discussion of same-sex relationships in elementary and middle school classes.

In their complaint, McHale and Phillips allege the school division has failed to create a safe and inclusive environment for students. "When you exclude any discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity from the classroom, what we're saying is that sends a message to students that there's something wrong with either them or their families," Allison Fenske, an attorney with the Winnipeg-based law centre, said. "That kind of exclusion and stigmatization really creates unsafe spaces in the school, and that just can't stand."

June 13 - The Ontario government is changing the way it displays sex and gender information on health cards and driver's licences to ensure the fair, ethical and equitable treatment of people with trans and non-binary gender identity. Ontario health cards will no longer display information about a person's sex on the face of the card. This change will not affect the validity of the card, and cards will continue to function in the same way.

Starting in early 2017, driver's licence holders will be given the option to display an 'X' on their card as their gender identifier if they do not exclusively identify as male or female. Driver's licences that display an 'X' instead of an 'M' or an 'F', will also be considered valid and can be used in the same way as previous cards.

This summer, Ontario will also launch public and stakeholder consultations to help develop policy on how ministries collect, use, retain and display sex and gender information on government forms and products.

July 5 — Rainbow smoke swirled around members of Black Lives Matter at an intersection in Toronto. The group, which advocates for vulnerable communities, had set off smoke grenades in the midst of the city's Pride parade. Afterward, they staged a shutdown that stalled the march for 25 minutes.

"We are under attack," yelled Alexandria Williams, a Black Lives Matter cofounder, after the smoke cleared. "Pride Toronto, we are calling you out for your anti-blackness, your anti-indigeneity."

The parade resumed when the executive director of Pride Toronto, Mathieu Chantelois, and the organization's co-chair Alicia Hall met with organizers and discussed their concerns. Afterward, the organizers signed an agreement to hire more trans employees and queer people of color, increase funding for events that support and showcase these communities, and eliminate police floats from future marches. And then, the show went on.

From start to finish, this interaction is a model for what anyone could hope for a Pride — march, protest, listen, and make the world a little better than it was beforehand. This outcome was one of the reasons Pride Toronto made Black Lives Matter Toronto an honoured group of the event. They had expected a protest and welcomed the results.

In the immediate wake of the shooting of the gay bar Pulse in Orlando, many LGBT people feared to attend Pride in their cities. But Orlando also sparked a deluge of new sponsors and partners, as well as the participation of Justin Trudeau, making history as the first sitting Prime Minister in Canada to march in a pride parade. In a historic triumvirate, he was joined by Toronto mayor John Tory and out politician Kathleen Wynne, the premier of Ontario. Their presence is meaningful for Canada's LGBT community, because it showed a political support the likes of which the world has never seen.

July 8 Most Canadian school administrators want to offer specific supports to enhance the safety of LGBT students, a new study says. The survey headed by Catherine Taylor, an education professor at the University of Winnipeg, surveyed 141 Canadian school divisions, including rural, urban and Catholic divisions. "It was significant to find that there is such support and goodwill towards LGBTQ students coming from the top," Taylor said in a news release. "This suggests that the time has come to end the official and unofficial 'don't say the word gay' rule that still exists in many schools and introduce specific supports to ensure the well-being of LGBTQ youth," she said.

The purpose of the study was to develop a more detailed picture of how school systems are acting to support LGBT students. The study also found LGBT-specific policy is perceived to be more effective than safe schools policy, but it's less likely to be brought in before Grade 8. Many of the school districts that responded to the study rely solely on gay-straight alliances or anti-harassment policy to support LGBT students.

The study, called National Inventory of School District Interventions in Support of LGBTQ Youth Wellbeing, was funded by a \$2-million grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

LGBT Marriage News

May 26 - Several more court battles are expected in **South Korea**, after judges reject equal marriage. A lawsuit filed by a prominent gay film director and his partner seeking legal status for their same-sex marriage is rejected by a South Korean district court in the first case of its kind. Movie director Kim Jho Gwang-Soo and his long-time partner Kim Seung-Hwan, held a wedding ceremony in Seoul in 2013 and submitted their marriage registration form to their local authority, only for it to be rejected. The couple challenged the decision in a lawsuit – but a district court rejected their legal bid.

However, the pair have filed an appeal against the ruling, while a number of other cases have been filed by at least two other same-sex couples.

June 22 - Malcolm Turnbull, **Australia's** prime minister promises that a referendum on legalising same-sex marriage will be held this year if his government is re-elected. Australia holds its elections on July 2, with the latest opinion poll showing the ruling Liberal-led coalition and Labour neck-and-neck. *(NB: Although election results have been contested, it seems that Turnbull has won the July election).*

July 12 - Questions about the integrity of the voting process in which Anglicans narrowly reject a resolution to allow same-sex marriage, lead to a stunning reversal of the result.

To pass, the resolution required two-thirds of each of three orders — lay, clergy and bishops. The clergy failed to reach that threshold by one vote that was apparently not counted. The error was discovered after delegates requested a detailed hard copy of the electronic voting records.

Toronto Archbishop Colin Johnson calls same-sex marriages — at the discretion of the bishop and with agreement of local clergy — a logical step in the evolution of the church. The resolution still needs affirmation by the next synod in 2019 before it becomes church law.

About 1.6 million **Canadians** identify themselves as Anglican, according to Statistics Canada, and church figures indicate more than 500,000 of them are part of about 2,800 congregations across the country.

July 20 - Romania moves a step closer to ruling out the possibility of legalising same-sex marriage when its top court paves the way for a referendum on defining marriage in the constitution as a union strictly between a man and a woman. The nine judges on the Constitutional Court rule unanimously that a proposal signed by 3 million Romanians this year to change the constitution's definition of marriage was valid.

Under Romanian law, the constitution can be changed after a proposal by the president, the government, a quarter of the members of parliament or at least 500,000 citizens. Parliament must approve the revision, which must then pass a nationwide referendum.

The Coalition for the Family, a civic initiative, gathered 3 million signatures earlier this year in favour of replacing "spouses" with "a man and a woman". It said only men and women can naturally start a family and raise children.

Local LGBT rights groups say the revision would, if approved, effectively make it impossible to legalise same sex marriage at a later date.

Few politicians openly support same sex marriage in the socially conservative eastern European nation of 20 million, where the Orthodox Church holds considerable sway.

International News

May 17 (NELFA News) - The Network of European LGBTIQ Families Associations (NELFA) are delighted at **Portugal's** extension of medically assisted reproduction to all women. Until recently, this type of medical assistance was only made available to married heterosexual couples. With this vote, single women and lesbian married couples will also be able to benefit from this assistance to become pregnant.

Isabel Advirta, President of the Board of ILGA Portugal and a mother herself, said, "It was about time that this discrimination against women in the Portuguese legal system was brought to an end. I am very happy for all the women and couples whose pregnancy projects will now have a greater chance of success, without them having to cross any borders to make their dreams come true."

June 13 (BBC News) The worst mass shooting in modern **American** history was also a hate crime against the gay community. It's not the first time LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people have been the targets of violence.

There is still much to learn about what led 29-year-old Omar Mateen to murder 49 patrons at the Pulse Nightclub in **Orlando**, Florida. On June 11, police said 50 people had been killed. However, by the 12th, they changed that figure to 49, to exclude the gunman from the death toll.

President Barack Obama did not hesitate to condemn the massacre as "an act of terror and an act of hate".

"This is an especially heartbreaking day for all our friends - our fellow Americans - who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender," he said in an address to the nation. "The shooter targeted a nightclub where people came together to be with friends, to dance and to sing, and to live."

The Orlando attack is a painful reminder that even though the US has made historic strides in broadening the rights of its LGBT citizens - like the legalisation of gay marriage in June 2015 - the struggle up until this point has been a difficult and sometimes violent one.

Nicholas Syrett, co-chair of the Committee on LGBT History and a professor at the University of Northern Colorado, said more openness came with a cost: while large-scale attacks on the LGBT community were not as common, there had been hundreds of individual assaults and murders, including the high-profile beating death of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming in 1998.

In Orlando, Mateen was said to have called the emergency number 911 to pledge his allegiance to ISIS just before launching his attack. Mark Wallace, CEO of the Counter Extremism Project, said it was difficult to know how many LGBT men and women had been killed by ISIS, but the practice was well documented. "The targeting, persecution and killing of LGBT [people] in Isis-controlled territory is extensive.

June 14 (Huffington Post) - Omar Mateen, the gunman who killed 49 people at Pulse nightclub in **Orlando**, was no stranger to the popular gay bar, according to witnesses and parties working with the FBI. "Sometimes he would go over in the corner and sit and drink by himself, and other times he would get so drunk he was loud and belligerent," Ty Smith, a Pulse regular, said.

The FBI is parsing the 29-year-old shooter's life, looking for clues that led up to the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. Agents investigating Mateen said that they've also heard accounts that he was spotted on dating apps for men, including Jack'd, Adam4Adam and Grindr.

Pulse security guard Estella Peterkin recalled having to kick Mateen out for bad behaviour on several occasions.

June 20 (Al Jazeera) Turkish police have fired rubber bullets and tear gas to break up a banned rally by the LGBT community in central Istanbul. Several hundred riot police surrounded the main Taksim Square to prevent the event called "Trans Pride" from taking place. The rally was to kick off the LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender - week in Turkey. Istanbul's governor had banned the LGBT from holding rallies, citing security concerns.

As the police swooped in on the rally of a few hundred people, the crowd fled into nearby streets. Demonstrators unfurled a rainbow flag, and then tried to read a statement but were prevented from doing so by the police.

Turkish media reported that at least two people were arrested.

The annual Pride parade and Pride Week Istanbul (June 20-26 this year) have taken place since 2003, attracting tens of thousands of people in recent years, with a reported 100,000 participants in 2013. Police broke up the 14-year-old rally for the first time last year. Both this year and last year, events overlapped with the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

June 24 (Huffington Post) President Barack Obama will officially designate a new national monument at the site of the Stonewall uprising to honour the struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights in the United States. Patrons of the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in **New York City**, fought back against harassment and police raids in June 1969, sparking other riots and protests against the criminalization of homosexuality.

Stonewall will be the first site in the National Park Service that recognizes the struggle for LGBT rights. The new monument protects 7.7 acres of land in Greenwich Village, including the inn, Christopher Park and surrounding streets and sidewalks, the White House said.

"Although the LGBT civil rights movement has made significant progress in the pursuit of equal rights and protections under the law, there is still more work to do," the White House said in a statement referring to the recent attack in Florida. "LGBT people of color are especially at risk. The Administration is committed to continuing the fight for dignity, acceptance and equal rights for all Americans — no matter who they are or who they love."

July 1 (NPR) A federal judge in **Mississippi** blocked implementation of a state law that would have provided legal protection for people who refuse to accommodate LGBT individuals or same-sex marriage based on religious objections. The judge ruled at the last minute the law would have allowed, quote, "state-sanctioned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity."

The Mississippi law is perhaps the most extreme of dozens of religious freedom laws passed by state legislatures. It was written specifically to support those who have one of three religious beliefs that marriage is exclusively the union of a man and a woman, that sex should take place only inside such a marriage and that a person's gender is determined at birth and cannot be altered. People who act on

those beliefs by refusing to hire someone, for example, or provide accommodation would be shielded from punitive actions such as discrimination suits.

Judge Reeves said that by allowing discrimination against LGBT individuals, the Mississippi law violates the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

July 8 (Global News)– Ten states have sued the federal government over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity, joining a dozen other states in the latest fight over LGBT rights.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Nebraska and included nine other states: Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The filing comes after 11 states sued in May over the same Obama administration directive. North Carolina officials also sued the federal government in May over the same issue. Vast sums of federal funding are at stake: Money could be withheld from public schools that refuse to comply with the federal directive.

The battle began to take shape when officials in Charlotte passed a sweeping anti-discrimination ordinance that included a provision allowing transgender people to use restrooms corresponding to their gender identity. North Carolina lawmakers passed a law nullifying that ordinance and banning others like it.

Soon after, the Justice Department said the law violated the federal Civil Rights Act and said it couldn't be enforced. U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch has said North Carolina's law requiring transgender people to use public restrooms and showers corresponding to the gender on their birth certificate amounts to "state-sponsored discrimination" and is aimed at "a problem that doesn't exist."

Jay Kaplan, a lawyer who specializes in LGBT issues at the American Civil Liberties Union in Detroit, said the lawsuit is a waste of tax dollars "as well as an assault on the dignity of transgender youth."

July 15 (The Advocate) California is hoping to bring schools into the 21st century. The California State Board of Education have voted on new curriculum for its history and social science courses that expands its teaching on LGBT history, including "a study of the role of contributions" of "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans." The new guidelines will extend to elementary, middle, and high school courses.

"In second grade, California students will learn about families with two moms or two dads," writes the *Associated press*. "Two years later, while studying how immigrants have shaped the Golden State, they will hear how New York native Harvey Milk became a pioneering gay politician in San Francisco." During their senior year, students will also study the 2015 decision legalizing same-sex marriage, as well as the nationwide fight over public bathroom access for transgender individuals.

The updated guidelines were based in the 2012 passage of the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act. Sponsored by State Sen. Mark Leno, the legislation mandated that California K-12 institutions include marginalized groups often excluded from public school curricula. This includes people of color, religious minorities, and those with disabilities.

Allyson Chiu, a junior at Cupertino High School in Cupertino, Calif., said this instruction will most crucially impact LGBT students, many of whom don't know their history. For students seeking to become comfortable in their identity, she said that can be a lifeline. "My classmates can solve quadratic equations or cite the elements on the periodic table," Chiu told the *AP*. "They can't tell you who Harvey Milk was or the significance of the Stonewall Riots."

The FAIR Education Act will likely, however, face continued obstacles to implementation, both from conservative groups and parents. Between the December 2015 and the end of February 2016, the California Department of Education received more than 10,000 emails about the bill, as the *AP* reports.

August 4 (Washington Blade) The 2016 Summer Olympics will take place in **Brazil** against the backdrop of rampant anti-LGBT violence. *Grupo Gay da Bahia*, an advocacy group in northeastern Brazil, notes that 326 LGBT Brazilians were reported killed in 2014. The organization said in a June 29 press release that 19 LGBT people in the state of Bahia were killed "in situations" with "obvious homophobic overtones" in the first six months of this year. *Grupo Gay da Bahia* has previously said that an LGBT person is murdered in Brazil every 27 hours.

A report the *Human Rights Campaign* issued ahead of the Olympics indicates that 41 percent of the LGBT Brazilians who were reported killed in 2014 were transgender. The majority of these victims were poor trans Brazilians of African descent who face rampant discrimination in employment, housing and health care because of their gender identity, race and economic status.

August 5 (Human Rights Watch) – Ugandan police unlawfully raided an event late in the evening on the third night of a week of Ugandan LGBTI Pride celebrations, brutally assaulting participants, seven human rights groups said today. The event was a pageant in Kampala's Club Venom to crown Mr/Ms/Mx Uganda Pride.

"We strongly condemn these violations of Ugandans' rights to peaceful association and assembly," said Nicholas Opiyo, a human rights lawyer and executive director at Chapter Four Uganda. "These brutal actions by police are unacceptable and must face the full force of Ugandan law."

The police locked the gates of the club, arrested more than 16 people – the majority of whom are Ugandan LGBT rights activists – and detained hundreds more for over 90 minutes, beating and humiliating people; taking pictures of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) Ugandans and threatening to publish them; and confiscating cameras. Witnesses reported that the police assaulted many participants, in particular transgender women and men, in some cases groping and fondling them. One person jumped from a sixth-floor window to avoid police abuse and is in a hospital in critical condition.

By approximately 1:20 a.m., all those arrested had been released without charge from the Kabalagala Police Station. This episode of police brutality did not happen in isolation, the groups said. It comes at a time of escalating police violence targeting media, independent organizations, and the political opposition.

"Any force by Ugandan police targeting a peaceful and lawful assembly is outrageous," said Frank Mugisha, executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), who was among those arrested. "The LGBTI community stands with all Ugandan civil society movements against police brutality."

Activists called on the governments to immediately and publicly condemn the raid and to take swift disciplinary action against those responsible for the gross violations of rights and freedoms. The organizers said that Pride Uganda celebrations will continue as planned, with a celebration on August 6. "Our pride and resilience remain steadfast despite these horrible and shameful actions by Ugandan police," said Clare Byarugaba of Chapter Four Uganda.

August 10 (Outleadership) The first-ever openly LGBT+ minister has been named to the **Serbian** cabinet. Ana Brnabic, who was named Serbian businesswoman of the year in 2013, is slated to become the minister of public administration and local government. She will be the first openly LGBT+ person to serve as a cabinet minister in the Balkan region of Europe.

Brnabic has previously worked for a number of multinational corporations, and established the National Alliance for Local Economic Development in the country. Her ministerial portfolio will include a reorganization of the Serbian bureaucracy along lines mandated by the European Union. Prime Minister Aleksander Vučić's government has made eventual membership in the EU a priority.

Brnabic's appointment to a cabinet led by the centre-right Serbian Progressive Party was somewhat unexpected, given that she has no political affiliation. LGBT+ rights campaigners have hailed the move as a major milestone in a country that still sees high levels of anti-LGBT+ sentiment.

August 22 (Japan Times) – Demonstrators gathered in central Istanbul, **Turkey** to protest the rape and killing of a transgender woman and LGBT activist. Hundreds attended a rally, holding signs and chanting slogans for 22-year-old Hande Kader, whose body was found a week earlier. Media reports say the body was burned beyond recognition. Opposition MPs also attended the demonstration.

Banu Aslan, 58, told The Associated Press, "We want justice. They should never do this again. They should never murder again."

Last month, Turkish gay rights organization Kaos GL reported that the decapitated body of a gay Syrian refugee, Muhammed Wisam Sankari, had been found in Istanbul.

Homosexuality is legal in Turkey but rights groups say hate crimes against the LGBT community are common.

August 23 (CBC News) A **U.S.** judge blocked an Obama administration policy that public schools should allow transgender students to use the bathrooms of their choice, granting a nationwide injunction sought by 13 dissenting states just in time for the new school year.

U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor of the Northern District of Texas, an appointee of former Republican president George W. Bush, issued a nationwide injunction siding with the 13 states and blocking the Obama administration's bathroom guidelines, the evening before students in much of Texas and some of the other affected states were due back in school.

In May, the Justice and Education departments issued guidance that public schools must allow transgender students to use bathrooms, locker rooms and other intimate facilities of their choice rather than those matching their gender assigned a birth.

O'Connor's ruling is "just one small part of an unfolding process," said Aaron Bruhl, a law professor at William & Mary in Virginia. "This won't be the last word on this subject, obviously," he said. "There's a decent chance the U.S. Supreme Court could address this issue in the near future."

A group of five civil rights organizations supporting the Obama administration said legal precedent clearly protects transgender students from discrimination, which a single district judge cannot overturn. "The court's misguided decision targets a small, vulnerable group of young people — transgender elementary and high school students — for potential continued harassment, stigma and abuse," said the five groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2016:

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3 STARTING AT 11 A.M.**

QUEBEC CITY: PRIDE COMMUNITY DAY

Come visit our kiosque on the rue St-Jean!

◆ **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4 FROM 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.**

QUEBEC CITY: FAMILY PICNIC AT THE PARC BERTHELOT

For LGBT families and our allies. Picnic and family activities! Organized in collaboration with the Alliance arc-en-ciel.

<http://www.arcencielquebec.ca/activites/fete-arc-en-ciel/programmation/>

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10 FROM 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.**

MONTREAL : DRAGONBOAT CHALLENGE - FUNDRAISER FOR THE ASTERISK LGBTQ YOUTH CENTRE

Come and cheer on the LGBT Family Coalition Team and enjoy the events of the day!

Where: Lachine Canal, 5524 rue St-Patrick, Pier 22 Dragons, (corner St-Patrick and de l'Église)

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 FROM 11 A.M. (RAIN DATE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18)**

ROUGEMONT : APPLE-PICKING AT THE JARDINS D'ÉMILIE ORCHARDS

<http://www.vergerlesjardinsdemilie.com/>

(450) 469-4287

1255 Rang Double, Rougemont, QC J0L 1M0

\$: very affordable, you pay only for the products you consume

See attached flier

OCTOBER 2016:

◆ **THURSDAY OCTOBER 13 FROM 6-9 P.M.**

MONTREAL: COMMUNITY SUPPER AND EXCHANGE –TRANS PARENTING

A community supper and exchange for trans folk who are thinking, perhaps, of starting a family one day! Come and meet up with those who have started families recently!

Where: 1212, rue Panet, room 204, Montreal (métro Beaudry)

See attached flier

◆ **SATURDAY OCTOBER 29 AT 11 A.M.**

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY: PUMPKIN PICKING AT THE LABONTÉ ORCHARDS

(See attached flier for directions and details)

NOVEMBER 2016:

◆ **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9:30 A.M. – 11 A.M. (DATE TO FOLLOW)**

GET-TOGETHER FOR YOUNG PARENTS

Discussion group for parents with young children (up to about 2 years old)

Songs and stories for kids with a discussion group for parents on the topic chosen by parents who are present

Espresso for the parents and snacks for all.

Where: 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

◆ **MONDAY NOVEMBER 14 FROM 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.**

MONTREAL: CONFERENCE ON QUEER FAMILIES

Where: Université de Montréal, pavillon Marie-Victorin, room D-451

90 Avenue Vincent-D'indy (métro Édouard-Montpetit)

Please RSVP to info@famillesLGBT.org if you need childcare

See attached flier for more details

◆ **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19**

INTENSIVE DAY IN MONTREAL FOR FUTURE LGBT PARENTS (IN FRENCH)

**Advanced registration is necessary: (514) 878-7600 or info@famillesLGBT.org
Please note: the number of places is limited (see attached flier for more details).**

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.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@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.

.....