



NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XVIII - No. 4 – June 2017

Calling all members – Fund-Raising Campaign 2017-2018

By Julie Robillard, Assistant Director of the LGBT Family Coalition

Dear members,

As you know, the LGBT Family Coalition has been in a precarious financial situation for the past few years, in large part because of austerity measures. Another factor is that there are increasing demands placed on us as an organisation, while having no real increase in our financing, or any guarantee of stability for upcoming years. This perpetual uncertainty and the task of always having to accomplish more and more with the same resources, has obliged us to begin to look around for other sources of income in order to assure the continuity of the services we provide, for you, our members, as well as for the numerous professionals working with youth and families who benefit from our workshops on sexual and gender diversity.

That's why, this year, our **fund-raising campaign** is going in a new direction! In addition to the precious support that you give us each year when you renew your membership, or make a donation to our organization in September, we **need your help to contact the organisations** (businesses, enterprises, unions, etc.) where you work, that **give donations** for community initiatives and/or **social causes**. Why are we asking for your help? Simply because businesses, unions and other organizations that manage these funds usually prefer to support causes that are important to their own employees, rather than responding to the numerous requests that come from the outside!

For example, last year, one of our members tried this out with the company where she works and she was able to easily obtain a \$2000 grant for the Coalition. She simply targeted her business' existing donations program and contacted the person in charge of it to find out what kind of information was needed to make the request. It was simple, efficient and it paid off!

Would you like to help us out? You can do it in **3 easy steps**:

1. **Find out** if this type of fund exists in your workplace and **collect the information** necessary to find out how to apply for it.
2. **Contact us**: we can work together to build a strong application so that your organization or business will want to donate to the Coalition.
3. **Send out** the request (and wait for the good news)!

The funds that we collect can help us to increase the number of sensitization workshops that we carry out in cégeps and universities with future professionals, as well as with professionals who are already working with children and families. These funds will also help us to increase the amount of social activities and resources available to support our members.

Help from every one of our members is crucial to assure the functioning and endurance of the LGBT Family Coalition, as we approach our 20th anniversary!

Thanks for your help!

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

April 3 – The Report on actions implemented under the *Government action plan against homophobia 2011-2016* has been made public. The Action Plan led to the implementation of a number of measures, including:

- the creation of the *Bureau de lutte contre l'homophobie* to coordinate government actions and administer the fight against homophobia program;
- the creation of a Chair on Homophobia, with \$475,000 in funding over five years, to find out more about the realities facing the members of sexual minorities;
- two media-based awareness-raising campaigns that reached 75% of the Québec population on average;
- the Fight against Homophobia program, which provided \$1.3 million in funding for 64 projects mainly proposed by community organizations;
- supplementary assistance for 23 community organizations in the form of \$1.84 million in funding to increase their ability to act.

The Action Plan set out 60 measures resulting from the joint action and commitment of eleven government departments to support the members of sexual minorities in the social, community and professional arenas and increase public knowledge about sexual diversity.

April 26 - The implementation of the Quebec government's sexual education class has not been smooth sailing. A voluntary survey sent out to schools participating in the pilot project by the Ministry of Education was recently obtained by *le Devoir*.

The Ministry report reveals a number of issues: a lack of training for teachers, few resources available to schools, delays in obtaining teaching materials and some concerns over the content of the course itself.

Quebec's Education Minister Sébastien Proulx has plans to bring the course to more schools next year, but has delayed its overall implementation so that more work can be done on the content of the class and how it should be taught to students.

The sexual education courses consist of five to 15 hours of instruction per year.

Many of the schools that responded to the survey had expressed a desire for the government to create a more self contained program, rather than forcing teachers to decide how to teach students. As it stands the survey showed teachers would integrate the sexual education content into existing classes, such as French and math.

The Ministry noted that there was a low response rate to the survey, prompting a recommendation to use caution when interpreting the results.

May 17 - The 2017-2022 government action plan against homophobia and transphobia, "Pour un Québec riche de sa diversité", ("Québec, Rich in its Diversity") was launched on May 17. A budget of \$10 million over five years has been allocated for its implementation, including \$2 million for the year 2017-2018.

Like its predecessor, the second action plan promotes respect for the rights of sexual minority members and helps raise public awareness about the realities they face. Special attention is paid to the most vulnerable groups such as young people, the elderly, trans individuals and Aborigines, as well as people living in regions and communities where fewer resources are available.

The plan establishes five priorities:

- openness to sexual diversity;
- respect for the rights of and support for sexual minority members;
- the creation of safe, inclusive environments;
- the adaptation of public services;
- the coherence and effectiveness of any actions taken.

The action plan also has eight objectives, supporting 38 measures based on recommendations and input from many different partners in the government, community and university sectors, as well as civil society.

Canada News

February 27 - A newly released study from the University of British Columbia found that gay, lesbian and bisexual teens are half as likely to play sports as straight youth. The study, done with the youth research non-profit *McCreary Centre Society*, analyzed data from the B.C. Adolescent Health Survey taken by 99,373 students across British Columbia between 1998 to 2013. Generally, there has been an overall decrease in participation in sports from all high-school aged students, but most noticeably amongst LGB teens.

“For every year that we looked, a lower proportion of LGB youth were involved in sports than straight youth,” said the study’s senior author Elizabeth Saewyc, a nursing professor who leads the Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre at UBC. “There’s this gap and that gap has been persistent and it appears from our analyses that the gap is widening.”

The study shows that five out of 10 gay students played formal or coached sports in 1998. By 2013, this number dropped to three out of 10. Similarly, participation numbers also dropped for lesbian girls, bisexual girls and bisexual boys.

It is the first study in Canada to track sports participation trends of sexual minority youth. Prof. Saewyc said transgender youth were not included because the survey didn’t ask about transgender identity until 2013, and at least three years of data are needed for something to be considered a trend. However, a 2014 national Trans Youth Health Survey done across Canada by the McCreary Centre found only 16 per cent of transgender youth said they participated in sports with a coach. Forty per cent of youth who took the survey identified themselves as non-binary.

“I think there’s still definitely a lack of role models for young people in sports. There’s not many out, gay athletes,” said Annie Smith, co-author of the study and executive director of the McCreary Centre.

March 2 - Following a human-rights investigation, the federal government might be compelled to offer a third-gender option on passports. Rory Vandrish filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) in April 2015, arguing that non-binary people, like themself, should have a third-gender option on passports, following seven other countries that offer “X” as a gender marker including Germany, Nepal and Pakistan. Vandrish has since changed their request, asking the federal government to become the first country without gender markers on its passports at all.

“If it’s an ‘X’. . . it’s going to out you and you’re going to experience discrimination,” Vandrish said.

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) is now undertaking a review of how it can restrict collecting gender data to only necessary policy-planning work, and how it can keep that data confidential.

The prime minister’s special advisor on LGBTQ2 issues, Randy Boissonnault, said that the Liberals are waiting on that review to shape how other departments collect data. “It’s part of our commitment to upholding the rights of the LGBTQ community,” he said. “Pending the review, we’ll review procedures for other elements as well.”

March 13 - The Nunavut Legislative Assembly has voted unanimously on a comprehensive trans-rights bill, making it the latest jurisdiction to acknowledge the need for explicit human-rights protections for trans people. Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, had just two clauses, which added the categories “gender identity” and “gender expression” as prohibited grounds for discrimination in the territory.

March 15 - The New Brunswick government is making changes to the Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on family status and gender identity or expression. Amendments introduced on the 50th anniversary of the act and the Human Right Commission that enforces it, are intended to modernize the legislation and make the handling of complaints more efficient, the government said in a news release.

"These amendments will help the most vulnerable New Brunswickers have equal opportunities to participate in society and contribute to our economy," said Donald Arseneault, minister of post-secondary education, training and labour minister

The act was created to protect people against discrimination at work, in housing and public services, including police, hospitals, retail operations and hotels.

Nathalie Chiasson, the chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, said the proposed amendments are significant and reflect a changing society. "These new measures will enable us to better help New Brunswickers access our services," the release quotes Chiasson as saying.

March 22 - Parliament's first-ever special advisor on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit and queer issues will soon have money to help him promote equality, protect the rights of LGBTQ2 Canadians, and address both historic and current discrimination. The federal government will spend \$3.6 million over three years, starting in 2017, to establish an LGBTQ2 Secretariat within the Privy Council Office to support MP Randy Boissonnault in developing and coordinating government initiatives on LGBTQ2 issues. The funds were announced in the federal budget.

Although great strides have been made to accept and include LGBTQ2 people, the community has a history of discrimination, harassment and violence, which has affected career opportunities, social inclusion and well-being. A 2010 survey conducted by the Trans Pulse Project showed out of the 500 transgender respondents in Ontario, 13 per cent had been fired and 18 per cent were refused employment based on their transgender status. Twenty per cent of respondents had been physically or sexually assaulted, but not all of those assaults were reported to police.

Although significant gaps in data remain, the government says it is “committed to better understanding these challenges and making meaningful progress in advancing the rights of LGBTQ2 individuals in Canada.”

March 23 - Many Canadians who have turned to assisted reproductive technologies over the past 10 years are now eligible for a tax break as a result of Finance Minister Bill Morneau's new budget. Getting medical help to conceive a child can cost thousands of dollars, a cost that isn't covered by most provincial health plans. The government estimates that one in eight Canadian couples experience infertility and "an increasing number of Canadians, including single parents and same-sex couples, are turning to assisted human reproduction procedures to help build their families."

Until now, Canadians had to be diagnosed as medically infertile to be able to claim the cost of reproductive technologies as part of their medical expense tax credit. The change in the federal budget opens the tax credit to those who aren't infertile, such as single women who want to have a child or a same-sex couple who want to start a family.

Moreover, the way the government has decided to proceed means the measure will also effectively be retroactive. By framing it as a clarification of the tax laws, it means that anyone who has incurred expenses over

the past 10 years for reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization can refile their taxes for that year and claim the expense.

The government says it could eventually make the expenses associated with turning to a surrogate mother eligible as well, but wants to first wait for the results of a consultation launched by Health Canada to determine which expenses should be considered eligible.

May 3 - New guidelines for evaluating LGBT refugee claimants should stop inappropriate and irrelevant questioning by Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada adjudicators, people who work with asylum seekers say.

"It's revolutionary," Winnipeg immigration lawyer Bashir Khan said. "It basically puts LGBTQ people and their refugee claims at the same level as a political opinion or a religious persecution case, meaning that their sexuality is not put on trial the way it has been up until today."

The Immigration and Refugee Board released the guidelines, a 12-page document that covers terminology, appropriate language, challenges faced by individuals with diverse sexual and gender identities, the importance of protecting sensitive information, principles for assessing credibility and avoiding stereotyping.

Khan said about 30 per cent of his cases so far this year involve asylum seekers who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer and are fleeing persecution in their home countries.

His clients have sometimes faced uncomfortable and inappropriate lines of questioning from board members at refugee determination hearings, he said. For example, some adjudicators asked clients how they performed certain sexual acts, he said, which is irrelevant to the heart of the matter: the persecution people face.

May 4 —Impassioned appeals by two mothers of transgender youth and a federal promise that passports will soon reflect different gender identities marked the start of a final drive to outlaw discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression in Canada.

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould told a Senate committee studying the proposed law — to amend hate speech provisions in the Criminal Code and federal workplace protections in the human rights code — that it's time to catch up to the provinces and territories, which have all enacted or introduced protections for transgender people.

Conservatives who said they supported the broad goal complained that Bill C-16 is too vague, will force people to use odd pronouns, confuse public bathroom usage and mess up Canadian passports.

But Melissa Schaettgen, mother of a 9-year-old trans girl and her twin brother talked about how her daughter was assaulted and her son held back from running for help while older kids yanked down his sister's clothes to check her genitalia. She said she and her husband live in fear for their daughter's safety every day. "We are terrified of what she faces, the discrimination, the harassment, the judgment. This is absolutely key to our children's future, we're fighting for our children's lives. It's not just some bill to us."

Schaettgen pleaded with senators to pass the bill to send a strong message to all Canadians.

The justice minister said no one should have to put up with the kind of verbal, physical and sexual violence and discrimination that drives many in the trans community to despair or suicide. "Parliament has the opportunity to affirm, in clear language, that trans and gender diverse persons are entitled to equal protection from discrimination, hate propaganda and hate crime and that all Canadians are entitled to manifest their gender identity and expression without fear for their safety," Wilson-Raybould said.

May 17 - On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, the Canadian government has announced it will make a formal apology to LGBT Canadians for past injustices. Liberal MP Randy Boissonnault, who is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's advisor on LGBT issues, stated that the federal government will acknowledge their role in legislation, programs, and policies involved in the discrimination against and inequity of LGBT people in Canada.

Boissonnault also stated that a formal apology will be made before the end of this year.

Meanwhile on May 9, Canada Post launched a new stamp to commemorate the 2005 legalization of same-sex marriage with the Civil Marriage Act.

The marriage-equality stamp is the fourth in a series of 10 stamps that Canada Post is rolling out for Canada's 150th anniversary.

LGBT Marriage News

April 12 - The **Falkland Islands** pass historic legislation to legalise same-sex marriage. The Legislative Assembly also votes overwhelmingly to approve civil partnerships for both same-sex couples and heterosexual couples. The British Overseas Territory, which has a population of around 3,000, passes the law with seven votes in favour, and one against.

The extension of marriage rights comes after a public consultation, which found that 90% of respondents within the Falkland Islands were in favour of same-sex marriage and 94% were in favour of civil partnerships for all couples. 87% supported church weddings for same-sex couples when permitted by the church concerned.

The bill guarantees couples in civil partnerships the same parental rights as married couples and notes that “parents to a child may be two mothers or two fathers”.

The islands become one of just a handful of territories to recognise civil partnerships for all couples, and part of an even shorter list to offer the same rights for civil partnerships as marriage.

May 5 - The Supreme Court of **Bermuda** rules that same-sex couples have the right to marry, bringing to a close a years-long drama over marital rights in the British island territory.

The case was brought by a Toronto-based Bermudian and Canadian gay couple, Winston Godwin and Greg DeRoche, who filed their challenge last July. Although they could marry in Canada, they preferred to marry in Godwin's home country Bermuda.

It is not clear yet if the government of Bermuda plans to appeal the decision to the territory's Court of Appeal or to the Privy Council in London.

May 24 — In a ruling that paves the way for **Taiwan** to become the first place in Asia to recognize same-sex marriage, the constitutional court strikes down the Civil Code's definition of marriage as being only between a man and a woman. The legislature now has two years either to amend the Civil Code or to enact laws addressing same-sex couples.

If the legislature fails to pass an amendment or legislation in the next two years, same-sex couples “shall be allowed to have their marriage registration effectuated at the authorities in charge of household registration,” the court writes in a news release.

International News

March 6 (The Advocate) Transgender **Americans** were anxiously awaiting the day when their rights would be considered in a case before the Supreme Court. But thanks to President Trump, they'll be waiting longer. It looked like Virginia high school student Gavin Grimm was going to get transgender kids their day in court, with the Supreme Court having already set a date to hear his case — March 28. Then Jeff Sessions was named attorney general of the United States.

Sessions moved quickly to undo the Obama administration's guidance that said transgender students must be treated according to their gender identity, which had meant trans kids like Grimm couldn't be forced into single-occupancy bathrooms or other inappropriate facilities. Grimm's school board had prevented him from using the boys' restroom and required him to use an inconvenient, single-occupancy one.

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case after a three-member panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled in Grimm's favor, but now the court has vacated the case. That means it not only didn't take the case — which would've meant Grimm's win at the lower court had stood — but also that the justices undid the appeals court ruling and asked it to start again.

“This announcement speaks volumes to the ways that President Trump's actions are already having devastating consequences for transgender youth across the country,” said Matt McTighe, executive director of Freedom for All Americans, in a statement. “All students, including transgender students, deserve to participate fully and succeed in school, and to feel safe and respected while doing so.”

March 12 (Daily Mail) A Long Island threesome who split after they raised their son with two mothers and a father have been granted 'tri-custody' of the 10-year-old boy in a historic **New York** ruling. Michael, 50, and Dawn Marano, 47, from Bay Shore had been raising their son along with their downstairs neighbor Audria Garcia, 48, the boy's biological mom. Suffolk County Supreme Court Judge H. Patrick Leis III granted custody to all three parents in an unprecedented ruling.

The wife's insurance covered Garcia's pregnancy and the two women nursed the baby and attended doctor appointments together. After 18 months in the polyamorous relationship, the threesome split in 2008 when Mrs Marano and Garcia moved into a new home after they decided to have their own partnership. The breakup took a messy turn when Mr Marano sued Garcia for custody of their biological son and Mrs Marano filed for divorce, the paper said. The case went to trial after the biological parents agreed to joint custody, but Mr Marano opposed his ex-wife's custody bid.

While the two women were happy with the decision, Michael told the paper he was going to file an appeal.

March 13 (Buzzfeed) Democrats in Congress plan to reintroduce legislation that would ban LGBT discrimination nationwide, despite facing a conservative majority that's been generally hostile toward the issue. While the bill has little chance of passage, progressives hope inaction by Republicans can illustrate a chasm between the major political parties as they approach the 2018 midterm election.

“It's important for **Americans** to know whether members of Congress support full equality for our community or whether they support continued discrimination against LGBT Americans,” said Rhode Island's David Cicilline, a Democrat who will sponsor the bill in the House.

The Equality Act, as it's known, would amend existing civil rights laws to add protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in workplaces, housing, and public spaces. It would also clarify that transgender students can use single-sex facilities in schools in accordance with their gender identity, possibly settling a dispute tangled in courts.

March 28 (Huffington Post) Alabama, Georgia, South Dakota, and Tennessee have all introduced or passed bills recently to limit same-sex adoption. The various bills allow adoption agencies to refuse service to same-sex couples.

These laws do nothing but discriminate against LGBT families and hurt children in need of loving homes. According to the Children's Bureau within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care. There are tons of qualified LGBT people willing to provide safe home environments for children in need, so why are these politicians working so hard to keep children in the foster care system?

April 1 (BBC News) Gilbert Baker, an artist based in San Francisco who created the rainbow flag as a symbol for the gay community, has died aged 65. The San Francisco Chronicle said Baker died in his sleep at his home in New York.

He initially designed an eight-colour flag in 1978 for the city's gay freedom day, the precursor to the modern pride parade.

The rainbow flag has been raised in central San Francisco to honour him. It is flying near Harvey Milk Plaza, named after America's first openly gay politician, a close friend of Baker before his assassination in 1978.

April 2 (The Advocate) Authorities in the Russian-controlled republic of Chechnya have been rounding up and arresting gay men, with more than 100 detained and at least three killed.

"The men were detained 'in connection with their nontraditional sexual orientation, or suspicion of such,'" wrote the Russian opposition newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*. Stories of the actions against gay men had been circulating among human rights activists for some time, with the Russian paper now providing confirmation.

The arrests began after the group GayRussia.ru applied to hold Pride parades in four locations in the North Caucasus region, which includes Chechnya. It had not applied for a permit in Chechnya, but in neighboring areas. The group did not expect to receive approvals — public demonstrations of "nontraditional sexual orientation" are illegal in Russia — but was "collecting the inevitable denials, in order to build a case about gay rights and freedom of assembly with the European Court of Human Rights."

The North Caucasus is heavily Muslim, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, seeking to pacify Muslim rebels, "has empowered local leaders to press agendas of traditional Muslim values," with gay people particularly targeted.

It is risky to be out in the region, so authorities had sought out closeted gay men, partly by pretending to look for dates on social networking sites. Gay men have now begun deleting their social networking accounts, while some have posted harrowing stories — one of a 16-year-old boy who disappeared from a Chechnyan village and was beaten to death, with his bones returned in a bag.

May 11 (ABC News) Five LGBT activists have been arrested in Moscow as they tried to deliver a petition calling on Russian authorities to investigate the alleged detention and torture of dozens of gay men in Chechnya.

One of the activists from the group LGBT Network, Nikita Safranov, speaking to ABC News from inside the police station where he and the four others were being detained, said they were arrested today while walking toward the offices of Russia's Prosecutor General in central Moscow.

The group was carrying large stacks of boxes stamped with the words "Justice for the Chechen 100" and filled with copies of the petition. Safranov said they expected to be charged with staging an unsanctioned demonstration.

The group's petition, which was launched on Change.org, calls for Russia's prosecutor to investigate recent reports that over 100 men have been kidnapped and tortured by authorities in Chechnya as part of an alleged organized roundup targeting the gay community there.

May 16 (CNN) The first-ever gay pride event took place in **Lebanon**, a country where homosexual acts are still considered a crime. Instead of the usual gay pride parades seen in the West, Beirut Pride included an exhibition on gender fluidity in fashion as well as a storytelling get-together centered on coming-out stories and a gay-themed party in one of the Middle East's biggest night clubs.

The organizers say Beirut Pride is an event of the city's own making -- a culmination of years of grassroots mobilization that first emerged from secret meetings and online chat rooms. Hadi Damien, initiator of Beirut Pride, told CNN that the first week-long pride campaign with more than a couple dozen events was the result of many meetings with nongovernmental organizations, artists and nightclubs. They came together to help improve the visibility of LGBT people across multiple venues and audiences.

Damien said that Beirut Pride is not looking to promote legal rights such as gay marriage -- Lebanon has not fully legalized civil marriages. Nor do organizers seek to repeal Article 534 of the penal code, which prohibits sexual acts "contrary to the order of nature." They're seeking to "banalize" LGBT people, to help "transcend labels" that alienate individuals of certain sexual identities.

May 22 (New York Times) The police in **Indonesia** have arrested 141 men at a sauna in the capital on suspicion of having a gay sex party, the latest crackdown on homosexuality in the country.

After the arrests in Jakarta, the police released to local news organizations numerous photographs of shirtless men who had been detained, alarming rights activists who said friends and families of the men may not have been aware of their sexual orientation.

Same-sex relations are not illegal in most of Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim nation, though gay people are frequent targets of police raids and vigilante actions.

A police spokesman said the men had been detained on suspicion of violating Indonesia's pornography law, a broad piece of legislation that is used to punish a wide range of sexual behavior.

A week earlier, two men in the northwestern province of Aceh were sentenced under Shariah law to 85 public lashes each for having sex with each other.

**News from the LGBT Family Coalition
UPCOMING MEETINGS**

JUNE 2017

◆ **THURSDAY JUNE 15TH STARTING AT 7 P.M.**

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (MONTRÉAL)

Our annual general assembly, followed by a celebratory cocktail.

(For more information please see attached flier).

◆ **SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH at 11:00 A.M.**

FAMILY ACTIVITY: PICNIC AT LAFONTAINE PARK (MONTRÉAL)

(For more information please see attached flier).

◆ **FRIDAY JUNE 30TH TO SUNDAY JULY 2ND**

CAMPING AT AUX BERGES DU LAC CASTOR

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

JULY 2017:

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AUGUST 2017 – PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

◆ **THURSDAY AUGUST 17TH**

CANADA PRIDE CHILDREN'S DAY: MONTREAL

(For more information please see attached flier).

◆ **SATURDAY AUGUST 19TH and SUNDAY AUGUST 20TH**

COMMUNITY DAY AND CANADA PRIDE PARADE: MONTREAL

N.B.: The Pride Parade and Community Day have been scheduled for the weekend of August 19th and 20th. Please reserve these dates in your calendar. We will give you an update on this in the weeks to come!

◆ **SATURDAY AUGUST 26TH**

COMMUNITY DAY AND PRIDE PARADE: SHERBROOKE

N.B.: The Pride Parade and Community Day have been scheduled for August 26th. Please reserve this date in your calendars. We will give you an update on this in the weeks to come!

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND**

PRIDE COMMUNITY DAY: QUEBEC CITY

N.B.: The Community Day has been scheduled for September 2nd. Please reserve this date in your calendars. We will give you an update on this in the weeks to come!

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**, 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.

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