



## NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XIX - No. 1 – September 2017

### Our 20<sup>th</sup> Year

*By Mona Greenbaum, Director of the LGBT Family Coalition*

This September marks the beginning of our 20<sup>th</sup> year as an organization! The celebration will come in 2018. As many of our long-time members know, the LGBT Family Coalition was born shortly after my partner Nicole and I became parents. When Léo was only 6-weeks-old a first meeting was held in our living room. The 40 women in the room exchanged about our experiences and initiated a community for LGBT families.

From an off-the-kitchen-table group we have seen many changes over the years, both for the organization and in society in general. In the beginning, we were only lesbian and bisexual moms, then our group became a mixed group with gay and bi dads, and now of course we have many trans parents (of all sexual orientations) as well. The future parents in our group are also much younger now than they were back then. The demographic of our group has changed over the years.

And with laws and protections increasingly in place, we are able to again think about new ways to start our families that we couldn't even envisage in the 90s: trans men having babies; surrogacy; multi-parent families; gender neutral parenting; lesbians that are co-nursing their new baby; and families with polyamorous parents. We have gone from wanting to have the same legal rights as cis-gendered heterosexuals and the same means to start our families (fertility clinics and adoption services), toward creating and promoting new and different family types that are models to our society at large. The community of LGBT families has become an innovator for Québec society in general.

Acceptance of family diversity has always been a measure of our society's openness to sexual and gender minorities in general. When we were debating same-sex marriage 15 years ago most Quebecers said they were not homophobic and had no problem with same-sex relationships. But at the turn of the millennium only about 20% of Quebecers agreed that it would be a good idea for a child to have same-sex parents. It was therefore gratifying for me to read, at the beginning of this summer, that 68% of our population believe that a child with same-sex parents can develop just as well as any other kid! This statistic expressed inversely (almost 32% of respondents thought that a child should have opposite sex parents to develop normally) indicates that there is still some work to do, but it shows that our work is having a huge impact. By training almost 20,000 professionals in schools and social and medical services over the years, as well as carrying out over 1000 media interviews, we have had a huge effect on public perception about our families.

Our work as an advocacy and public education group for the LGBT community has not gone unnoticed by the government, as we have become official partners with both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Families. What this means is that the number of workshops and conferences that we can carry out in the years to come will be even greater than what came before.

In terms of our everyday work, it's so great to have a second full time staff member with Julie Robillard as our new Assistant Director. Julie is very much involved in the public education aspect of our work but is also extremely interested in getting our members more involved in working toward the betterment of our community. If you are interested in getting involved, there are all kinds of committees to take part in, from social activities, to public education, to finances and even towards our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration!

Once again, I must urge you to renew your membership dues and perhaps even think of making a donation toward to the LGBT Family Coalition in honour of our upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To do so please go to: <http://www.familleslgbt.org/membership.php?lang=en>.

Our membership year goes from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. By becoming a member, you help to support our educational work so that the 68% social acceptance can go to 100%, as well as our advocacy work, so that all of our families will be legally and socially protected. Your money also goes toward family activities as well as resources and tools that we develop. By becoming a member, you receive all of our news before everyone else (and that includes those that are just members of our Facebook page), you can vote when important decisions need to be made, you have access to our library of LGBT books and you receive the quarterly newsletter as well as important announcements about issues touching our families. By becoming a member, you are also affirming your ties to a strong community that has been flourishing for the past 20 years.

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**Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to [info@famillesLGBT.org](mailto: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

**May 23** – Quebec’s provincial government has rendered public survey results about the perception and attitudes of the Quebec population regarding LGBT people. Carried out in March 2017 for the Ministry of Justice, the survey reveals that the level of ease and openness of Quebecers regarding sexual minorities has increased over the past years, despite the persistence of certain prejudices as well as homophobic and transphobic behaviours.

Key points from the survey:

- A majority of respondents (92%) consider themselves to be more open to sexual diversity than the society in general; this perception of openness to sexual diversity has increased slightly because in 2013 personal openness was at 89% and 80% for Quebec society;
- The degree of ease with sexual minorities went from 63% in 2013, to 74% this year;
- Concerning homoparental families, 94% of the population believe that a same-sex couple can be as good parents as two people of the opposite gender. In 2013 only 83% held this belief;
- However, almost 32% of respondents thought that a child should have opposite sex parents to develop normally;
- As in 2013, about a third of respondents believe that it is easy to recognize, in a group, someone who is part of a sexual minority;
- More than 40% of the population surveyed affirmed having witnessed homophobic or transphobic discrimination.

**June 19** –*Gai Écoute* is celebrating 37 years of existence. But its name no longer represents the variety of services that are available, nor the diversity of its clientele. After months of reflection and work, the organization has come up with a new name and logo, as well as new colours to better correspond with their mission: a first-line responder to those who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender, as well as their family and friends, the community, schools and health and social services providers.

It was almost in secret that the team of *Gai Écoute* called a meeting for those close to the organization to announce their new name: *Interligne*. Their slogan: Let’s speak about sexual and gender diversity.  
[www.interligne.co](http://www.interligne.co)

**July 18** - Marie-Marcelle Godbout the founder of the ATQ (Aide aux trans du Québec) has passed away quietly in her sleep. She was 73 years old.

Marie-Marcelle was an important part of the origins of transgender history in Quebec. First known as the magician Mimi de Paris, she founded the ATQ in 1980. Her life cause was to bear witness, through whatever platforms were available to her, to the misunderstood realities of trans people.

She was extremely important to the advancement of LGBTQ rights and was at the forefront of multiple conferences and encounters with politicians at every level of government.

Behind her courage and dignity was a full-hearted and generous woman. She helped countless individuals and was available to the trans community 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, for the past 37 years. She helped thousands of people by listening to and accompanying them through their darkest moments. With her patience and open heart, she transformed and saved many lives.

**August 18** - Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and Police Chief Philippe Pichet have apologized to the LGBT community for institutional discrimination and police raids from the 1970s to the 1990s in which more than 800 people were arrested.

"It's important for us to put forward this public apology today because we want to turn the page," said Coderre. The announcement comes after the city's official opposition and community groups recently called on police to apologize for past crackdowns — some of which turned violent — on gay bars and clubs.

"It criminalized people, it stigmatized people," said Puelo Deir, who co-founded the former Divers/Cité Festival and is a grand marshal at this year's Pride Parade. "It broke families, it broke relationships, it broke people."

Coderre also revealed the creation of a new policy of sexual diversity and gender plurality, which includes developing a committee and hiring someone to work as a liaison between Montreal and the LGBT community. "In order to guarantee dignity, we must take concrete action," said Coderre. The new measures also include establishing a code of conduct and the addition of gender-neutral washrooms.

## Canada News

**June 4** -The Defense Department says a painstaking review of dusty personnel files in the national archives may be needed to determine how many people were forced out of the military for being gay or lesbian. The Trudeau government has signaled its intention to apologize to former military members, hoping to make amends to those who endured federal discrimination over the decades due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The policies had their roots in government efforts that began as early as the 1940s to delve into the personal lives of employees who were considered security risks.

However, inquiries to Defense — including a formal request under the Access to Information Act — reveal the department has no firm sense of the numbers affected between 1969, when homosexual acts were decriminalized, and 1992, when military restrictions on gays were lifted.

National Defense's human resources system does not include information on a person's sexual orientation, nor does it record the specific reason why a person was released from the Armed Forces, spokeswoman Suzanne Parker said in a written response to questions from The Canadian Press. Due to these limitations, it is "impossible to provide a tight estimate" of the number of Forces members released between 1969 and 1992 due to their sexual orientation, Parker added. "It may entail pulling and reviewing every single personnel file from Library and Archives Canada to determine the circumstances of each case."

The government now faces a brewing class-action lawsuit in Federal Court that would cover members of the military and other federal agencies who were “investigated, discharged, terminated, sanctioned or faced threat of sanction” by the government after June 27, 1969 because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

**June 14** - Trans and gender nonconforming Yukoners now have legal protection against discrimination. The Yukon Legislative Assembly has passed amendments to the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act. The changes make it illegal to discriminate against someone based on gender identity or gender expression — the way a person appears, dresses or behaves.

The Vital Statistics Act now permits changing the sex on a birth registration without any operations. Previously, the act only allowed someone to change the sex on their birth registration after gender reassignment surgery.

The government has committed to examining Yukon legislation to ensure it does not discriminate against anyone. It has also stated that within the next year, Yukoners will be able to get birth certificates with gender neutral markers.

**June 16** - Canadian senators have passed a new law which explicitly prohibits discrimination against transgender Canadians and affords them protection against hate crimes. Bill C-16 passed third reading in the Senate, more than a year after being introduced. The Attorney General of Canada issued a statement in response.

“In Canada we celebrate inclusion and diversity, and all Canadians should feel safe to be themselves,” the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould said. “Trans and gender diverse persons must be granted equal status in Canadian society, and this bill makes that status explicit in Canadian law.

“The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that everyone can live according to their gender identity and express their gender as they choose. It will protect people from discrimination, hate propaganda and hate crimes.”

“I would like to acknowledge the courage and the leadership of the trans community and their decades of effort to achieve equality,” Wilson-Raybould said. “Their dedication, resilience and tireless advocacy for equal rights inspire me.”

**June 23** - Manitoba's public schools get a failing grade when it comes to reflecting the diversity of families, which leads to discrimination against LGBT families and their kids, complaints filed with the Manitoba Human Rights commission allege. Two Manitoba families have accused the province of allowing discrimination against LGBT individuals and their families by not providing adequate inclusive learning materials in the classroom. This means children don't see themselves and their families reflected in their lessons at school, the complaints say.

Provincial guidelines that designate issues of gender identity and sexuality as sensitive topics compound the problem by limiting them to discussions around sexual education and health, allowing parents to opt out of having their children take part in those discussions, they say.

"What we're talking about is not so much people's sexuality, or specifically their gender identity, but actually just about family diversity and understanding and accepting everyone," said Allison Fenske, a lawyer with the Public Interest Law Centre who is representing the complainants. "And so students have to be able to see themselves and their families reflected in their school and know that their families matter."

**July 11** - A Canadian baby might be the first in the world to have an official genderless ID card. Kori Doty, a nonbinary trans person, gave birth to Searyl Alti in November 2016 and has been battling it out with the BC government to keep their child's gender off all official documents.

And finally, in April 2017, the government issued little Searyl a health card without a gender marker. The health card has a “U” in the space designated for “sex,” The “U” could stand for “unassigned” or “undetermined.”) However, officials refused to issue the baby a birth certificate without a gender.

Doty says their decision was to allow Searyl, as they grow up, to decide who they are without dealing with assumptions about their gender identity.

While advocates are celebrating the victory, others feel it would unnecessarily out someone who is trans or intersex. Regardless, it's a historical moment in Canada's progress towards genderless IDs. Some provinces, like Ontario and Alberta, are currently reviewing their policies to include a third, non-binary gender option on the documents.

**July 22** - A transgender inmate in British Columbia has won a years-long battle to serve the remainder of her sentence for first-degree murder at a women's prison. Fallon Aube is one of the first federal prisoners to relocate under policy changes at Correctional Services Canada that allow inmates to transfer facilities based on gender identity and not physical anatomy, said Jennifer Metcalfe, a spokeswoman for the West Coast Prison Justice Society.

Metcalfe is a lawyer who heads the organization's legal-aid clinic that advocates for transgender inmates. "I've had a number of transgender women prisoner clients who have been held in men's prisons and who faced a lot of day-to-day discrimination, such as name calling and harassment from both correctional staff and other prisoners."

Transgender women living in men's prisons are also particularly vulnerable to sexual assault, she said.

**August 1** - Over 200 people gathered at a community town hall to discuss the disappearance of two men who were known to frequent the Church and Wellesley area in Toronto.

The disappearances of 49-year-old Andrew Kinsman at the end of June and 44-year-old Selim Esen in April have set off waves of concern in the community and have led to speculation the incidents may be connected to past unsolved missing-persons cases.

Family, friends and colleagues of the missing men as well as a deacon from the Metropolitan Community Church spoke at the town hall, and there were tips provided for those concerned for their personal safety.

Toronto police have opened up a special task force to look into the disappearances of Kinsman and Esen and have expressed gratitude to the LGBT community for holding the town hall meeting.

**August 3** – A third of same-sex couples in Canada were married and approximately one in eight couples had children at home, according to the 2016 census results revealed recently by Statistics Canada.

The number of same-sex couples in the country has increased considerably since the agency began counting them for the first time in 2001. At the time they numbered 34 205. Ten years later, for the 2011 census 64 575 same-sex couples were counted. In 2016 the number has reached 72 880 which represents a 12.9 % increase.

A growing number of couples live with children: approximately one in eight which represents about 12% having biological or adopted children living at home. The number of female couples having children is far greater than the number of male couples. Women represent four-fifths of the 8770 couples with children a ratio that has remained stable since 2001.

**August 25** – Transgender Canadians will be able to refuse being identified as male or female on their passports, if they so desire, as of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. The minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizens, Ahmed Hussen, announced that the Federal government « is putting in place » an X designation in Canadian Passports

and other documents delivered by his ministry for Canadians who do not want to be identified as male (M) or female (F).

## LGBT Marriage News

**June 7** - Dozens of **Romanian** rights groups jointly ask parliament to reject a proposed referendum to restrict the constitutional definition of family which would effectively rule out the possibility of legalizing same-sex marriage. Their grouping, Respect, says an initiative by the Coalition for the Family -- also a civil society group -- will push the European Union state onto a populist, authoritarian track leading to an erosion of democratic rights and liberties.

The plan for a referendum came about after the Coalition collected 3 million signatures last year in favor of changing the constitutional definition of marriage as a union strictly between a man and a woman from the existing "spouses".

**June 14** - Three men have made history by becoming the first trio to wed in a same-sex ceremony in **Colombia**. Manuel Bermudez, Victor Hugo Prada and Alejandro Rodriguez tie the knot in a romantic ceremony in the city of Medellin, in the north-western Colombian department of Antioquia. Three people are legally allowed to marry each other in Colombia, where it is known as a 'trieja' – a word derived from two others: trio and pareja: trio and couple.

Newlywed Victor Hugo Parada said: 'We wish to have an economical system based on the 'trieja' relationship that we already have. This issue is not banned by international laws, neither by Colombian laws'.

**June 30** - The lower house of the **German** parliament, the Bundestag, passes a bill giving same-sex couples equal marriage rights. Chancellor Angela Merkel said she was moved recently by visiting a lesbian couple in her rural constituency who had invited her into their home. Seeing that they had been trusted by social services with a succession of long-term foster children was apparently a life-changing experience for her. But despite her recent enlightening encounter with her constituents, the German leader could not bring herself to vote in favour of equal marriage, or even to abstain. She had, however, agreed to her party having a free vote, which meant that the question of when the matter would come before the Bundestag was no longer something the coalition partners had to agree on.

**July 7** - A new study shows fewer **Quebecers** are getting married than ever before. A total of 21,300 weddings were held in Quebec in 2016, 700 of which were between same-sex couples. While the number of marriages has decreased for heterosexual couples, it has increased for same-sex couples.

Weddings in Quebec are also much less likely to be officiated by a religious leader these days. Today, about 42 per cent of weddings are officiated by a religious leader, a drop from 71 per cent in 2002. Instead, many are opting to have an officiant, such as a friend or family member, perform the service – ever since this option became legal in 2002. Now, about one in four marriages is held that way – but that number spikes to 43 per cent for same-sex couples.

**July 13** - Lawmakers in **Malta**, a predominantly Roman Catholic country, vote to legalize same-sex marriage, joining much of Western Europe by replacing the traditional "you are now husband and wife" declaration in civil ceremonies with "you are now spouses." Only one lawmaker out of 67 in the Maltese Parliament votes against the legislation, signaling its broad support on the island nation despite opposition from the Catholic Church.

Adoption by same-sex couples has been legal since civil unions were introduced in 2014. Last year, the number of exclusively civil marriages eclipsed the number of church weddings for the first time. The law also calls for the removal of the terms "father" and "mother," to be substituted by "parents." Lesbian couples are distinguished by the terms "the person who gave birth" and "the other parent."

**August 3** – According to Statistics **Canada**, the latest census has revealed that the majority of same-sex couples in Canada (48 510) are living as common law couples, an option that is becoming increasingly popular throughout Canada. Meanwhile one third of same-sex couples (24 370) have tied the knot.

Quebec has the fewest number of married couples in all of Canada.

**August 4** – **Haiti's** senate has voted in favour of a proposition to bar same-sex couples from marrying. The proposition also prohibits any kind of 'promotion' of homosexuality throughout this highly religious country. The adopted text reads "The authors, co-authors or accomplices of a same-sex marriage risk a prison sentence of 3 years and a fine of 500 000 gourdes," or 10,000 Canadian dollars.

**August 7**: "Same-sex marriage will be legal in **Australia** by Christmas", the country's attorney general says. But the question is, how will that happen? The push for a vote by legislators has stalled in the Senate, forcing the government to plan for a potential postal vote (referendum) on the issue. Lawmakers' votes however would not be constrained by the outcome of the public vote.

## International News

**June 2 (Daily Mail)** Leo Varadkar is on course to succeed Enda Kenny as **Ireland's** prime minister after the ruling Fine Gael party elected the 38-year-old as leader. The former social protection minister will be the Catholic country's first openly gay prime minister, its first of Indian descent and the youngest person ever to hold the office.

He received the publicly declared support of almost two-thirds of the parliamentary party, who account for 65 percent of the vote.

On his 36th birthday in January 2015 during an interview on Ireland's RTÉ Radio, Mr Varadkar spoke publicly for the first time about being gay. He said: 'It's not something that defines me. I'm not a half-Indian politician, or a doctor politician or a gay politician for that matter.'

**June 5 (Newsweek)** After years of precedent set by Barack Obama, **American** President Donald Trump is breaking from tradition by failing to recognize June as LGBT Pride Month.

On the final day of May, the president issued five separate proclamations, choosing June to honor Caribbean-American heritage, African-American music, homeownership, the outdoors and the ocean. (Reporters and comedians alike noted the irony of the last two, in light of Trump pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement last week.) An acknowledgement of June as a historic month for LGBT people was nowhere to be found.

LGBT advocates and former White House staffers took to Twitter to criticize the lack of recognition. Shin Inouye, a former member of Obama's communication staff, said Trump "couldn't be bothered" to recognize LGBT Pride Month and expressed that, given his record, "maybe it's for the best."

**June 15 (The Guardian)** A gay woman has been appointed prime minister of **Serbia** in a double first for the EU-candidate state. Ana Brnabić, 41, a graduate of the University of Hull in England, is the Balkan nation's first gay PM and first female PM. The Serbian president, Aleksandar Vučić, announced that he was giving Brnabić, a non-party technocrat, the mandate to form a new government, describing her as "hard-working, [with] professional and personal qualities."

Brnabić's appointment, which comes in the same week that Leo Varadkar was formally elected as Ireland's first gay PM, is all the more remarkable given that virulent homophobia is still widespread in the Balkans.

Goran Miletić, a civil rights activist and Belgrade Pride organiser, said: “Even in some western countries it would be big news and a positive signal if a gay or lesbian person became prime minister or minister. It is even more important for a country where 65% believe that homosexuality is an illness and 78% think that homosexuality should not be expressed outside homes. The appointment of a lesbian can only be a positive message.”

**June 19 (Kurdistan 24)** Posters advocating the acceptance of homosexuality have been spread on different streets in Baghdad, calling for tolerance and coexistence. So far, it is unclear who is behind the campaign.

The posters are mostly in the Arabic language. “I am equal to you. Difference is the basis of life,” the posters read with the LGBT-I acronym, the last letter “I” believed to represent “Iraq.”

In the past years, human rights organizations have repeatedly reported cases of tortures, kidnappings, and murders of LGBT people in Iraq. A total of 680 cases of LGBT people being murdered were documented from 2004 until 2009, according to an *Observer* report published in 2009.

**June 20 (Vox.com)** The city of **Philadelphia** recently learned that the rainbow flag, a symbol of LGBTQ pride, isn't quite as unifying as it may seem. For Pride Month, Philly added two colors — black and brown — to the existing pride flag, and hoisted it outside City Hall. The colors, according to the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs' More Color More Pride campaign, represent inclusion of people of color in the LGBTQ community.

“In 1978, artist Gilbert Baker designed the original rainbow flag,” the campaign states. “So much has happened since then. A lot of good, but there's more we can do. Especially when it comes to recognizing people of color in the LGBTQ+ community. To fuel this important conversation, we've expanded the colors of the flag to include black and brown.”

Philadelphia's initiative to be more inclusionary toward nonwhite LGBTQ people comes from a good place, but its reception has been marked by controversy. The flag has historically represented LGBTQ people as a whole, and critics of Philly's changes to it believe those changes are unnecessary, since the flag is already a symbol of unity.

Philadelphia and its Pride campaign's addition of two stripes to the rainbow flag comes amidst the city's underlying problem with racial discrimination in its gay bars. Other complaints involved bars and clubs denying entry to nonwhite people based on vague dress codes, and white male patrons getting preferential treatment. And according to a 2017 report from the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, which investigated and studied these complaints, it found that “transwomen of color are particularly vulnerable to discrimination, harassment, and physical violence.”

The flag seems to be a response to this problem. “I'm proud to live in a city that would dare to advance important conversations and race during Pride like Philly has,” Zach Wilcha, the executive director at the Independence Business Alliance, Greater Philadelphia's LGBT Chamber of Commerce told me. Adding these stripes to the pride flag is a small gesture toward showing that previous efforts of inclusion have not been enough.

**June 25 (The Independent)** **Turkish** police have stifled an LGBT pride march in Istanbul after organizers pressed ahead with the event despite a third ban in three years by authorities. Police with riot shields and helmets sealed off entrances to Istiklal Street, where organizers had planned to hold the march before authorities announced the ban, citing security concerns after threats from an ultra-nationalist group.

Small groups of people gathered in sidestreets waving rainbow flags. Protesters gathered in the nearby neighbourhood of Cihangir, beating drums and chanting slogans such as “Don't be quiet, shout out, gay people exist!”

Police fired rubber bullets to disperse one group, witnesses said, and detained several people. Officers with dogs also chased activists. Footage posted on the internet also appeared to show them firing tear gas at one location.

Istanbul's pride march attracted tens of thousands of people in the past, making it one of the biggest in the Muslim world. But in 2015 it was broken up by police and it was banned last year and again this year after threats from the ultra-nationalist Alperen Hearths group. The Istanbul governor's office said it decided to prevent the demonstration out of concern for the security of marchers, tourists and residents.

"The true reason for the reactions towards a march that took place in peace for 12 years is hate," organisers said.

**June 27 (Reuters)** Campaigners for lesbian motherhood got a significant boost in **France** when a panel of ethics specialists said that female couples and single women should be granted access to sperm-donor techniques of medically assisted reproduction. The recommendation from the National Consultative Committee on Ethics (CCNE) comes two months after President Emmanuel Macron promised to legislate on access to medically assisted procreation for lesbians if elected.

The all-clear from CCNE, a panel which deliberates on sweeping societal changes made possible by the progress of science, brings France a step closer to the biggest gay rights reform since same-sex marriage was legalized in 2013.

A group that spearheaded months of protests before the legalization of gay marriage denounced the view of the ethics committee. It urged Macron in a statement not to launch what it said would be a "futile" debate on the issue. It cited a poll by Opinionay survey which found that 77 percent of respondents answered "yes" when asked if they felt the state should guarantee the right of children born through medically assisted techniques to a mother and a father.

Medically assisted procreation is widely available in places such as Britain, Belgium and Spain but it is reserved in France to heterosexual couples, with most or all of the bill paid for by public healthcare funds.

The CCNE said it opposed recourse to surrogate mothers, one of the only ways gay male couples could aspire to parenting, though they can adopt.

**July 2 (Reuters)** **China** has released new regulation banning the display of "abnormal sexual behaviors," including homosexuality, in online video and audio content. Published by the China Netcasting Services Association, the new rules, which build upon guidelines first released in 2012, also censor other "obscenity," "violent and criminal processes," and content that promotes "luxurious lifestyles." A group of "auditors" will now review all content posted online to make sure it adheres to "core socialist values."

As part of President Xi Jinping's continued efforts to reassert the ruling Communist party's role in limiting and guiding online communication, approved Chinese content should "sing the motherland, eulogize heroes, celebrate our times in song, and lead the people to hold the correct historical, ethnic, national and cultural view." *Gay Voice*, a Chinese-language LGBT magazine, posts on social media that "the false information in these regulations has already caused harm to the Chinese LGBT community—who are already subjected to prejudice and discrimination."

China has previously banned homosexuality from TV dramas. The wildly popular Chinese web series *Addicted*, which follows a gay high school couple, was abruptly removed from the internet and streaming services last year. China's censors are also notorious for banning LGBT content in film. *Brokeback Mountain* was famously denied a release, and Chinese moviegoers recently noticed that a same-sex kiss was cut from *Alien: Covenant*. The underground Beijing Queer Film Festival is frequently subject to police raids and arrests.

**July 11 (Pink News)** The names of 27 people slaughtered in a single night by **Chechen** authorities have been published. The secret mass execution is thought to have seen up to 56 people killed – all without trial.

Novaya Gazeta, a newspaper based in the region, has published the list of names it claims President Ramzan Kadyrov's government killed. The executions were all carried out in Chechnya's capital, Grozny, on the night of 25 January, the newspaper claims.

The Russian LGBT Network confirmed that a number of the men killed were gay and bisexual, but some are believed to be heterosexual.

**July 20 (Jerusalem Post)** Thousands of protestors took to the street in Tel Aviv near the military headquarters to express their dismay at the **Israeli** government's answer to the High Court of Justice announcing its opposition to adoption by same-sex couples. The protestors held signs reading "We are not second-class citizens".

Singer Harel Skaat, who is gay and is said to be going through adoption troubles himself, said that it was "very touching" to see everyone coming together for the cause. "We pay taxes like straight people, go to the army like straight people, why can't we have kids like straight people?" he continued.

The head of the Knesset's LGBT Caucus, Michal Rosin, said that the government is "ignorant and prejudiced" and blamed the religious monopoly on the government for "giving up on beautiful families" simply because they aren't 'traditional' families.

Fights reportedly broke out between protestors and police, with some reported arrests.

**July 26 (New York Times) American** President Trump abruptly announced a ban on transgender people serving in the military, blindsiding his defense secretary and Republican congressional leaders with a snap decision that reversed a year-old policy reviled by social conservatives.

Trump made the declaration on Twitter, saying that American forces could not afford the "tremendous medical costs and disruption" of transgender service members. He said he had consulted generals and military experts, but Jim Mattis, the defense secretary, was given only a day's notice about the decision.

His decision was announced with such haste that the White House could not answer basic inquiries about how it would be carried out, including what would happen to openly transgender people on active duty. Of eight defense officials interviewed, none could say.

Civil rights and transgender advocacy groups denounced the policy, with some vowing to challenge it in court. Pentagon officials expressed dismay that the president's tweets could open them to lawsuits. The ban would reverse the gradual transformation of the military under President Barack Obama, whose administration announced last year that transgender people could serve openly in the military.

## **News from the LGBT Family Coalition**

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **SEPTEMBER 2017:**

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2 STARTING FROM 12 A.M.**

**QUEBEC CITY: PRIDE COMMUNITY DAY**

Come visit our kiosk on the rue St-Jean!

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

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2 AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3 FROM 12 A.M.**

**QUEBEC CITY: FAMILY AREA, ARTS AND CRAFTS, TRAMPOLINE, ETC ON THE SITE OF THE COMMUNITY DAY**

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

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

◆ SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9 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 23 FROM 11 A.M. (RAIN DATE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24)

**MONTREAL : PICNIC AT JARRY PARK**

Meeting place : Near the kids Park, behind the police station - entrance Gounod and Saint-Laurent

**See attached flier**

◆ TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26 FROM 7 – 9 P.M.

**MONTREAL : QUEER BOOK CLUB**

**For more info please contact Marie-Hélène: [marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com](mailto:marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com)**

**OCTOBER 2017:**

◆ SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 FROM 11 A.M. (RAIN DATE SUNDAY OCTOBER 15)

**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY: PUMPKIN AND APPLE PICKING AT THE LABONTÉ ORCHARDS**

**(See attached flier for directions and details)**

◆ TUESDAY IN OCTOBER FROM 7 – 9 P.M. (DATE TO FOLLOW)

**MONTREAL : QUEER BOOK CLUB**

**For more info please contact Marie-Hélène: [marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com](mailto:marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com)**

**NOVEMBER 2017:**

◆ SUNDAY IN 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 Marie-Hélène: [marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com](mailto:marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com) or Julie: [julroch@hotmail.com](mailto:julroch@hotmail.com)**

◆ TUESDAY IN NOVEMBER FROM 7 – 9 P.M. (DATE TO FOLLOW)

**MONTREAL : QUEER BOOK CLUB**

**For more info please contact Marie-Hélène: [marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com](mailto:marie-helene.legault@hotmail.com)**

◆ SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18

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

**Advanced registration is necessary: (514) 878-7600 or [info@famillesLGBT.org](mailto:info@famillesLGBT.org)**

**Please note: the number of places is limited (see attached flier for more details).**

◆ TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28 FROM 6 – 9 P.M.

**MONTREAL: COMMUNITY SUPPER AND EXCHANGE –TRANS PARENTING**

A community supper and exchange for trans folk who are thinking of, or in the process of starting a family! Trans people in Québec are increasingly thinking about starting families: fertility clinics, adoption agencies or doing it at home. What are the options available, and are they really open to the trans community? Come and share your experiences with other members of the trans community. Tell us about your journey...

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

**See attached flier**

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**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.centredefemmesdeverdun.org](http://www.centredefemmesdeverdun.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)**, 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](http://www.cdfrdp.qc.ca) ainsi que le site de notre regroupement : [www.rcentres.qc.ca/propos.html](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

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**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](mailto: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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