

Dear friends,

Thanks to your incredible generosity we have been able to raise just over \$3000 in just a couple of weeks for 5-year old Alexa and her two moms Cristal and Sheila.

As you may know, Cristal left Mexico with her daughter after Mexican courts threatened to to revoke her custody of Alexa simply because she was living with a woman. Over a year and a half later, Alexa's father came to Québec to try to convince the judge here in Québec that the relation that Cristal has with Sheila, her partner, could harm Alexa's development and influence her sexual orientation.

After 5 days in court the hearings ended on Friday May 7th with an optimistic feeling. The judge seemed very sympathetic to the family and the fact that their human rights as lesbians had been trampled upon in Mexico. The judge will render her decision by the end of May.

In the mean time, we have used the money that you donated toward paying the lawyers<sup>1</sup> fees, and one of the expert witnesses from here in Montreal.

You should also know that an organisation called LEGIT has already covered \$11,000 in legal bills for them. As a grassroots lobby and support group, LEGIT provides immigration information and support to LGBT people while working to end discrimination in Canada's immigration regulations.

Unfortunately there are still expenses to be covered and there will be many to come.

Although we may win this case there are still numerous steps before Sheila, Cristal and Alexa can obtain permanent residency in Canada. For now they are awaiting decisions regarding their status as refugees.

Currently we still need to raise another \$5000: \$900 is still owed in legal fees, \$750 for a Telus bill for videoconferencing with a lawyer from Mexico, \$2000-\$3000 in legal fees to the lawyers in Mexico who are working towards stopping Cristal's extradition (she is accused of kidnapping her own daughter), photocopy fees, etc.

So we are again asking you to dig into your pockets. Also we implore you to use all your contacts, energy, networks and persuasive powers to help us to help this family. If you can contribute something, even if it's not much, you'll be helping these two women in their fight to find a safe and

welcoming place for their family.

Cheques should be made out to the Coalition des familles homoparentales and please include a note that it's for Alexa. Contributions can be sent to 2401 Coursol, Montreal, H3J 1C8. You can also pay through our paypal account.

On behalf of Alexa, a little girl who just wants a normal life with Mamá and Mamá Coco,  
Thank you.

Mona Greenbaum, Director,  
Gary Sutherland, Co-president  
Joanne Blais, Co-president  
LGBT Family Coalition