



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME XI - No. III – March 2010

New Laws for Adoptive Families

*By Gary Sutherland
Co-president LGBT Family Coalition*

Ah, government funded parental leave, what a pleasure! Last year, I had 6 fantastic months at home with our little Yasmina. I had loads of time to read newspapers (during naps, of course!!!) and to think about big social questions.

Justice Minister, Kathleen Weil, tabled a draft bill on adoption, which if adopted by the National Assembly could radically change the way we adopt children in Quebec.

In the draft legislation a number of changes are proposed that can potentially have a positive impact for some family types, especially blended families. Other proposals like open adoption or adoption without terminating the existing legal parent-child relationship with the biological parents are more controversial. Initially when I read the documents connected with this draft legislation I found it mostly positive. In some situations – some would call them exceptions – children, especially those who are older, would not be adoptable under the current law because the law would force them to drop the family name they are accustomed to (which older children would not necessarily want to do) in favour of the adoptive family's name. Another example of how the current law doesn't work is when a child adopted by grandparents, finds himself/herself legally a sibling to what were previously his/her aunts and uncles. These children could benefit from the proposed legislative changes.

Because of the lengthiness of the process with the mixed bank our little Yasmina will probably be adopted under the new laws. In between bottles I started to think about the possible reaction of a judge who would see our family enter the courtroom when Yasmina will come up for adoption....I know that not all judges are favourable to same-sex couples. We encountered two judges for Raphaël's adoption and I can say without doubt that one of them was uncomfortable with our family constellation.

I began to think that the Coalition should present a brief to the government to highlight the possibility that some judges in front of a same-sex couple requesting an adoption might opt for something other than plenary adoption (the only type of adoption that currently exists in Quebec, where the legal bonds between the child and his/her biological parents are severed and replaced by those of the adoptive family), simply because some judges might not want to establish legal links between a child and a same-sex couple.

So I began to wonder if the judge who will pronounce Yasmina's adoption might opt for open adoption, with adoptive and biological parents entering into a post-adoption communication agreement...in our case couldn't a judge claim that by establishing this agreement Yasmina would always have access to a mother which our family of two papas can't give her?

Or, the judge might propose an adoption without a legal relationship (meaning that the legal relationship with the biological parents would be maintained, while the adoptive parents, who would hold parental authority over the child, assume the primary responsibility for caring for the child), so as to not rupture the bonds with the biological family in favour of a new legal relationship with her two fathers. In a way, it's as if the law considers the "real parents" to be the people who brought the child into this world, while the adoptive parents are just "substitutes" who would take care of the child but not be able to give him or her a name, or have a real legal linkage.

Finally I decided to write a brief for the Coalition and, as well, a brief describing my own personal family situation. Aside from highlighting some of the "slip ups" that judges could make (and it was Minister Weil who talked about "slip ups", not me!!) I also reminded legislators that there is currently no training provided for future adoptive parents to help them to tell their children about their life story....no training to help them manage the issues of living in a bi or multi-racial family and no post-adoption support for parents.

On top of this I also reminded them that above and beyond the legislation, that this was a golden opportunity – changes in the civil code don't happen everyday – to reaffirm that our society values and recognizes that adoptive families *are* real families. Real parents are those who take care of their children on a daily basis, who hug them every day and night, who take care of their cuts and bruises and share in their joys and pains.

On the National Assembly site you can find the briefs, transcripts and video presentations. For the videos check out: <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/travaux/Debats/banquevideo/ci/avplcodecivil.html>

Hopefully the legislation, which may be adopted this spring, will not make the adoption process more complicated than it already is...a story to follow.

Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to info@familleshomoparentales.org or by post to CFH, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8

News Briefs: December 2009 - February 2010

Montreal-Quebec News

December 11th, 2009 (Montreal) Quebec justice minister Kathleen Weil has announced the provincial government's anti-homophobia policy would get some teeth.

Weil — who is also the minister responsible for the fight against homophobia — said the goal is to make Quebec a place where sexual minorities are equal in the eyes of the law, and of society. Already lauded as a province ahead of the pack on gay rights, Weil made big promises to gay Quebecers.

At the press conference, Weil spoke of striving to recognize the realities of sexual minorities, promoting respect for their rights and promoting their wellbeing by offering services adapted to their needs. "Whether this translates into grand-scale measures or into simple, daily gestures, I am convinced that each of our actions against homophobia will make the society of Quebec evolve into a more just, more tolerant and more diverse one," Weil said.

The first step toward turning talk into action came **January 29**, when the government announced an interdepartmental committee with minister-appointed delegates from all areas of government. The committee will be composed of the departments of public security, health and social services, education, sports and

leisure, family and the elderly, culture, communication and condition of women, immigration and cultural communities, labour, employment and welfare.

The document in question — The Quebec Policy Against Homophobia (<http://www.justice.gouv.qc.ca/english/ministere/dossiers/homophobie/homophobie-a.htm>) hinges on four major tenets: recognize the realities faced by sexual minority members; promote respect for the rights of sexual minority members; promote wellbeing and ensure a concerted approach. The interdepartmental committee will also "liaise with various [lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans] groups for the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the policy," the policy states. However, Quebecers will have to wait three years from the time the action plan is filed to get a progress report on the committee's work.

Canada News

February 2nd, 2010 - In a live interview that aired on a **Toronto** CBC-radio program, Ontario provincial Conservative candidate Pamela Taylor was put on the hot seat. Host Andy Barrie asked Taylor, who is running in the Toronto-Centre byelection, why there is not a single Conservative, federal or provincial who is openly gay. She named John Baird, a Conservative cabinet minister who has always refused to discuss his sexuality in the media.

And before Barrie could say anything more, she added "And there are lots of others." Barrie was so astounded that he didn't ask if she could name any.

Baird is a 40-year old bachelor known as "Rusty" who is highly respected in the Ottawa gay and lesbian community. He frequently attends annual "Capital Pride" festivals, which Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his other cabinet ministers flee like the plague. In the media, however, he's often portrayed as a workaholic bachelor and is the frequent (though non-sexual) date of Laureen Harper.

Baird, 40, was first elected in 1995 as a provincial Progressive Conservative. In 1999, he became a cabinet minister under then-premier Mike Harris. He was elected federally in 2006. As treasury board president that year, he stripped funding from the Court Challenges Program, a Chretien-era initiative that funded important gay legal battles, including the fight for gay marriage. He also "defanged" Status of Women Canada and cut funding for adult literacy and medical marijuana research.

Taylor's comments were part of a scuffle over the provincial Progressive Conservatives' record on gay issues.

Gay Marriage News

Interactive gay marriage chronology: For the last decade, the battle over same-sex marriage and other rights for gay couples has been hard fought in U.S. courts and legislatures and at the ballot box. Use this map to view milestones in the fight and how state laws have changed since 2000.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-gmtimeline-fl,0,5345296.html#story>

December 2, 2009 (New York) The New York state legislature, after a long delay, votes against marriage equality 24-38. No Republicans vote in favour of the measure. The defeat makes it likely that the New Jersey state legislature will either not vote or will also vote in the negative.

December 4, 2009 (Dublin) Ireland's lawmakers open debate on a bill to grant marriage-style rights to gay couples, a social milestone in a country long observant of Roman Catholic opposition to homosexuality.

Justice Minister Dermot Ahern says the bill would give gay couples the same rights as married heterosexual couples on questions of property ownership, inheritance, medical care and access to state benefits – and also the same right to go to court seeking financial support from higher-earning partners when relationships fail.

December 10, 2009 (Vienna) Austria's parliament passes legislation allowing homosexual couples to enter into civil unions, a move hailed by proponents as a historic win for gay rights in the country. The bill will give same-sex couples a series of rights enjoyed by their heterosexual counterparts, including access to a pension if one partner dies and alimony in the event of a split. It bans the adoption of children or artificial insemination.

December 16, 2009 (Washington) After suffering setbacks from California to New York, Maine to New Jersey, same-sex marriage supporters get a victory with the City Council's vote to legalize gay marriage in the District of Columbia. Gay couples could begin tying the knot in the district as early as March.

December 21, 2009 - Mexico City lawmakers make the city the first in Latin America to legalize same-sex marriage, a change that will give homosexual couples more rights, including allowing them to adopt children. The bill passed the capital's local assembly 39-20 to the cheers of supporters who yelled: "Yes, we could! Yes, we could!" The change would allow same-sex couples to adopt children, apply for bank loans together, inherit wealth and be included in the insurance policies of their spouse, rights they were denied under civil unions allowed in the city.

January 8, 2010 (Lisbon, Portugal) Portugal's Parliament has passed a bill allowing gay marriage in the mostly Roman Catholic country. The Socialist government's bill won the support of all left-of-center parties. Right-of-center parties opposed the change and argued it should be put to a national referendum.

January 7th 2010 (Trenton) New Jersey's state Senate has defeated a bill to legalize gay marriage, leaving it unlikely the state will have a gay marriage law in the very near future. The bill needed 21 votes to pass; only 14 senators approved the measure.

January 11 (San Francisco) The first federal trial to determine if the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from outlawing same-sex marriage gets under way, and the two gay couples on whose behalf the case was brought are among the first witnesses. The proceedings, which are expected to last two to three weeks, involve a challenge to Proposition 8, the gay marriage ban approved by California voters in November 2008. Regardless of the outcome, the case is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where it ultimately could become a landmark that determines if gay Americans have the right to marry.

January 11, 2010 - The United States Supreme Court rules to block video coverage of the Proposition 8 trial on YouTube. The Supreme Court's decision is made following an emergency appeal after Judge Vaughn Walker, the Chief U.S. District Judge assigned to the case, ruled in favor of permitting the YouTube trial coverage.

Due to the nature of the Prop. 8 trial — the controversial **California** case will determine whether or not the ban of same-sex marriages in the state is constitutional — parties on both sides hold impassioned views about Judge Walker's original decision to permit time-shifted posting of trial footage to YouTube.

January 13, 2010 - Enterprising filmmakers have found a way to circumvent a **United States** Supreme Court ruling blocking video cover of Proposition 8 on YouTube. John Ireland and John Ainsworth are using court transcripts, information from bloggers and professional actors to mastermind a re-enactment of trial proceedings for a YouTube-viewing audience. The pair strongly believes that their video portrayal of the trial will give Americans "a chance to judge for themselves, based on the evidence that was presented."

Both filmmakers are working on a shoestring budget, but they were still able to attract and secure talent despite being unable to compensate actors for their time. They have reportedly cast “attractive” parties to portray both sides. In fact, Gregory Itzen — who’s appeared in everything from *Twilight* to *24* — plays the role of defense witness, David Blankenhorn.

Working from court transcripts and first-hand accounts from bloggers who are present at the trial, the pair are re-enacting the trial and posting it for public viewing at: <http://www.marriagetrial.com/>

January 19, 2010 (Honolulu) When **Hawaii** legislators reconvene, all eyes will be focused on legislation that would allow same-sex couples to form civil unions. The measure would grant gay couples the rights and benefits the state provides to married couples and is among a handful of similar proposals that could pop up in several other states.

International News

December 12th 2009 (365Gay.com) (Dublin) The Irish Supreme Court has ruled that a gay man who donated his sperm to a lesbian couple should be permitted to see his 3-year-old son regularly – in part because Ireland’s constitution doesn’t recognize the lesbians as a valid family unit.

The ruling was a legal first in Ireland, where homosexuality was outlawed until 1993 and gay couples are denied many rights given to married couples. Critics contend the case highlights how Ireland’s conservative Catholic 1937 constitution conflicts with contemporary European norms and fails to address the reality that hundreds of gay couples in Ireland have children.

In their unanimous decision, the five judges of Ireland’s ultimate constitutional authority said a lower court erred by trying to apply the European Convention on Human Rights in favor of the lesbian couple. The Supreme Court concluded that when the two are in conflict, the Irish constitution is superior to European human rights law.

In her written judgment, Supreme Court Justice Susan Denham said the lesbian couple provide a loving, stable home for their son – but that the constitution defines parents as a married man and woman, and gays are not permitted to marry in Ireland. She said Irish law does identify the sperm donor as the father, and he therefore had a right to have a relationship with his son.

Ireland’s parliament has yet to pass laws that effectively regulate fertility clinics or define the clashing parenting rights of gay couples versus sperm donors.

December 13th 2009 (The Guardian) Uganda is likely to pass a law within months that will make homosexuality a capital offence, joining 37 other countries in the continent where American evangelical Christian groups are increasingly spreading bigotry.

"Learned behaviour can be unlearned," said David Bahati, an MP from the ruling party. "You can't tell me that people are born gays. It is foreign influence that is at work." Bahati is the author of the 2009 anti-homosexuality bill recently presented to Uganda’s parliament. The bill, will allow homosexuality to be punishable by death.

"Most people have misunderstood the bill," Bahati told the *Observer*. "The section of the death penalty relates to defilement by an adult who is homosexual and this is consistent with the law on defilement which was passed in 2007. The whole intention is to prevent the recruitment of under-age children, which is going on in single-sex schools. We must stop the recruitment and secure the future of our children."

There is wide support for Bahati's law which, while being an extreme piece of anti-gay legislation, is not unique. As far as gay rights are concerned, it would appear that much of Africa is going backwards. Nigeria has a similar bill waiting to reach its statute books and already allows the death penalty for homosexuality in northern states, as does Sudan. Burundi criminalised homosexuality in April this year, joining 37 other African nations where gay sex is already illegal. Egypt and Mali are creeping towards criminalisation, using morality laws against same-sex couples.

The Ugandan bill extends existing laws to make it illegal to promote homosexuality by talking or writing about it, and forcing people to tell the authorities about anyone they know who is gay. The bill, said Bahati, aims to "protect the cherished culture of the people of Uganda against the attempts of sexual rights activists seeking to impose their values of sex promiscuity on the people of Uganda".

Ironically, many suspect that it was outsiders who inspired this bill in the first place. In March, Bahati met several prominent anti-gay US Christian activists who attended a conference in Uganda where they pledged to "wipe out" homosexuality. The conference featured Scott Lively, president of California's anti-gay Abiding Truth Ministries and co-author of *The Pink Swastika*, a book claiming that leading Nazis were gay. Also there was Don Schmierer, on the board of Exodus International, which promotes the "ex-gay" movement, believing people can change their sexuality and be redeemed. The third extremist evangelical to attend was Caleb Lee Brundidge, who is linked to Richard Cohen who believes that psychotherapy can "cure" homosexuality. Bahati's bill was drawn up within weeks of the conference.

For Ugandans such as Pastor Martin Ssempe, who organises anti-gay rallies, the bill brings legitimate moral force to bear on the "corrupting influence" from western societies.

December 17, 2009 (IGLHRC NEWS) (Honduras) Walter Tróchez, a 27 year-old gay rights activist and member of the National Front of Resistance Against the Coup d'Etat, was shot in a drive-by attack by unknown assailants. He died several hours later in a hospital in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. According to Honduran NGOs *Red Lesbica Cattrachas* and *Feministas en Resistencia*, his is the sixteenth known murder in the Honduran lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community since the military coup on June 28, 2009.

Since the ouster of the country's democratically elected government, a climate of impunity has enabled systematic acts of transphobic and homophobic violence. Nobody has been brought to justice for any of these crimes, many of which were committed publicly. More deaths of LGBT people have likely gone unreported. The human rights of people in all sectors of Honduran society are being systematically violated as the direct result of the military coup. However, the accelerated rate at which LGBT people have been killed in the last five months suggests a targeted pattern of violence.

The work of Walter Tróchez, the most recent victim of this violence, included dissemination of information about human rights in Honduras. As an LGBT activist, Tróchez also reported on the human rights of LGBT people during the coup, and advocated for HIV/AIDS prevention and combating religious fundamentalism.

Like others in Honduras, Tróchez faced significant abuse for his political and human rights activism and his sexual orientation, which escalated after the coup. On July 20, 2009, he was detained by authorities for participating in a peaceful, sit-down protest across from the Congress of the Republic. During his detention, he was brutally beaten and denigrated because of his sexual orientation. Then, on December 4, Tróchez was kidnapped and beaten by four masked men who came in a gray pickup truck without license plates, suspected by activists to come from the police investigative unit (DNIC). He managed to escape and file a complaint to national and international authorities just days before he was murdered.

January 7th 2010 (Pink News) The Australian state of New South Wales – which includes Sydney - has

opted to continue a ban on gay couples adopting.

Although a parliamentary inquiry had recommended that changing the law would be in the best interests of children, the state government said there was not enough evidence of support for it. A change in the law would have widened the pool of adoptive parents for children in state care and would also allow children currently being fostered by gay parents a permanent home.

Community Services minister Linda Burney said yesterday that the findings of the inquiry had "some merit" but added: "Members were unable to reach a consensus, reflecting divisions on this issue in the wider community."

Gay rights groups in the state expressed disappointment at the decision.

February 1st 2010 (*The Guardian*) Pope benedict XVI has condemned British equality legislation for running contrary to "natural law" as he confirmed his first visit to the UK later this year. In a letter addressed to the Catholic bishops of **England and Wales**, the pope praised Britain's "firm commitment to equality of opportunity for all". However, he criticised UK legislation for creating "limitations on the freedom of religious communities to act in accordance with their beliefs".

His comments relate to laws that came in last year preventing adoption agencies from discriminating against gay couples and also Harriet Harman's equality bill, currently going through parliament.

The pope, whose visit is expected in September, made the comments after hearing from English and Welsh bishops who told him that sexual orientation legislation that came into effect on 1 January 2009 had forced the closure of half the Roman Catholic adoption agencies because the law making it illegal to discriminate against gay applicants went against their beliefs.

The pope's letter also referred to the equality bill, which narrows the special exemption enjoyed by churches allowing them to exclude people whose lifestyles do not fit in with the religious ethos of an organisation when hiring staff. The bishops cited it as another restriction of their freedom of religious belief.

The pope urged the bishops to make their voices heard and to defend the faith, saying Christian teaching did not undermine or restrict the freedom of others.

His remarks drew swift criticism from the *National Secular Society*, which said it would stage protests during the visit. Terry Sanderson, the society's president, said: "The taxpayer is going to be faced with a bill for £20m for the visit – in which he has indicated he will attack equal rights and promote discrimination.

News from the LGBT Family Coalition
UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH 2010:

◆ **Wednesday March 31st at 7 p.m.**

PARENTING COURSE PART 6: SURVIVING THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR YOUNG CHILD (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

You're parents now... a bundle of joy is in your arms. So much waiting and now it's happened. Having a young child means lots of practical issues with which you may or not be familiar. What kind of bottles do we choose? What is formula and which one do I choose? Diapers? Diaper rash? How do we choose a high chair, a stroller, a crib? Do we need a changing table? Is it normal my baby makes so much noise when he/she is sleeping? Should our baby sleep with us or not? Getting used to parental leave and the isolation that can come with it. And how about sleep deprivation and getting my new baby on a routine? Where can we find help? Come and hear parents' stories about their first weeks with their children and ask all the questions you can think of.

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-2901

APRIL 2010:

◆ **Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m.**

PARENTING COURSE Part 7: UNDERSTAND AND ANSWER (OR NOT?) THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

Is he your real child? Are your kids really brothers? Where is her other parent? Which one of you carried the child? Which of you is the mother and which is the father? An open discussion to think about what people's questions really mean, how and when to answer them, and how to keep your cool in that awkward situation.

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-2901

◆ **SATURDAY APRIL 17th AT 11:30 a.m.**

SUGARING OFF PARTY

On SATURDAY April 17th 2009 at 11:30 a.m., the LGBT Family Coalition will have a SUGARING-OFF PARTY at L'ÉRABLIÈRE CHARBONNEAU (at Mont St-Grégoire)

For the kids and adults there's a full traditional lunch, maple taffee on snow, pony and tractor rides, a mini-farm, outdoor games, a guided tour of the sugar shack, etc. The sugar shack is also located right beside an Arbraska for older kids (and adults) who are into treetop trekking! (www.arbraska.com)

Our space must be reserved in advance please fill out the enclosed form before March 15th, 2010.

Continued on the next page>>>>>

MAY 2010:

◆ **Wednesday May 19 at 7:00 p.m**

PARENTING COURSE Part 8: OUT IN THE WORLD : SURVIVING DAYCARE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL (FOR WOMEN AND MEN)

Should I meet with the principal and teachers to discuss our family before school starts? Do the teachers have any training or experience with children of LGBT families? What if my child doesn't want me to be "out"? We will address questions facing families with children entering or currently in daycare or primary school. The workshop is intended to give parents a forum to discuss this major change in their children's lives.

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-2901

ADOPTIONS AND BIRTHS (Please send us your announcements!)

◆ Big brother **Cole** is happy to announce that his little sister **Ella Megan Alyman-Audet** was officially adopted by her papa **Alain Audet** and her daddy **Raphael Alyman**, on **December 16th 2009**, 29 months and 3 days after she moved in with them.

BULLETIN BOARD:

◆ **Femmes Entre Nous (Saguenay).** L'Association lesbienne vous invite à ses soirées le premier et le troisième mercredis du mois, de 19h à 21h au **CLSC situé au 411 Hotel Dieu à Chicoutimi**. Ces rencontres ont comme but de briser l'isolement et s'adressent aux femmes lesbiennes qui désirent socialiser en compagnie d'autres femmes lesbiennes, afin de permettre un échange positif. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer! Pour plus d'information, veuillez contacter **Nathalie au 418-550-2259**◆

◆ **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@familleshomoparentales.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@familleshomoparentales.org or by post to CFH, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8. 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.

◆ **THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT FINANCIAL FREEDOM - LA LIBERTÉ PERSONNELLE PASSE PAR LA LIBERTÉ FINANCIÈRE.** Financial services for individuals and small businesses: budgeting, debt management, investments, future planning, personal taxes, wealth enhancement strategies. 20% of all subsequent fees will be donated to the CFH. **J. Freed, (514) 489-8633, www.jfreed.ca**

◆ We're putting the "real" in real estate! We don't have big hair and Gucci shoes, just a down-to-earth knowledge of the market. We know how important the right home is to your family. If you're thinking of buying or selling a house or condo anywhere in the city, we can help. **Mary Lamey (514-978-6522) and Amy Barratt (514-718-6522), affiliated real estate agents and proud lesbian mums.**

◆ Photographes professionnelles pour mariages, maternité, portraits, familles. Membre de la CFH. Contactez-moi pour plus de renseignements. **Marie-Andrée Boivin 514-273-9658 marieandreeboivin@yahoo.ca**
www.maphotographe.com

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