

LESBIAN MOTHERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2004

The Year to Come

By Mona Greenbaum, LMA coordinator

As our kids are returning to school, the LMA will be starting up another year of activities in September. We are now beginning our 7th year. Wow time flies! It seems like just yesterday that the group was starting up in our living room and yet we have seen so many changes. Although here in Quebec we are in a very good space and time with same-sex marriage and full legal recognition of our families, things were rather close there for a while on the federal level. I found myself wishing more strongly than ever that Quebec would separate from the rest of Canada.

If the polls had been correct, we could have very easily ended up with a Conservative minority government (and at one point a majority) in Ottawa, thus setting our rights back several years or even decades. Whether it be parenting issues, health issues, immigration issues, relationship issues, financial issues, employment issues, etc., they would have all been under attack by the Conservatives, forcing us, as a community, back to a place in time that we would rather forget and not live through ever again. Hopefully things will continue to move steadily forward. An important current focus for us as lesbian mothers is the *Assisted Human Reproduction Act* (Bill C-6) a federal law that could curtail how we form our families (see newsletter June 2004).

Meanwhile regardless of the political scene, our members are continuing to create a lesbian BABY BOOM!!! Last year more than 50% of our new members were wannabe-mamas and since last September many have become pregnant and even given birth. And so many of our activities in the past year were geared toward those who were thinking of having kids. What many lesbians without kids told us however is that they wanted not only to exchange but also to hear more from "the experts," meaning those of us who are already in the thick of raising our children.

Our goal this year, as you will see from the activity line-up, is to bring together those of us with and without kids so that we can share our everyday experiences, exchange, help each other deal with everyday problems and in the process, hopefully, "pass on our wisdom" to those who are contemplating motherhood.

We also are planning a number of great activities for the kids throughout the year. Wannabes should know that they are ****MORE THAN WELCOME**** to join our family activities. This is a great way to meet those who already have kids and to find out what its like to be a lesbian mama.

Finally we'd like to encourage you all to come to our September Welcoming Party. This is a chance for old members to meet up again after the summer holidays and for new members to jump aboard and see who we are. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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

News Briefs - June - September 2004

Montreal and Quebec News

June 1, 2004 (Montreal) An international conference on gay rights will be held in Montreal to coincide with the first *Outgames*. The conference, titled, *The Right to Be Different*, is being organized by the *Outgames* and the city of Montreal. It will be held in the days leading up to the Montreal games, 26 to 29 July 2006, at the Palais des Congrès, Montreal's convention center. The international scientific committee developing the conference, met at the end of May and came up with the following themes: essential rights, global issues, the diverse GLBT community, participation in society (including education, work, the family, the media and sport) and creating social change. More than 2,000 people are expected to participate in the conference.

The *Outgames* grew out of a dispute between Montreal and the Federation of Gay Games that saw Montreal pull out of the federation to host its own independent games in 2006. The FGG's Gay Games will be held the same year in Chicago.

Three major Quebec and Canadian union federations, the CSN, the CSQ and the FTQ/CTC, have become partners in the conference, which will include a financial contribution. As well, the Ministry of Citizen Relations and Immigration of Québec has officially added another \$35,000 for this year to the \$50,000 it already contributed to the conference this spring.

Air Canada has become the official airline of the *1st World Outgames Montréal 2006*. The airline will offer service and competitive rates to the 1st *Outgames* participants. Montréal 2006 also welcomes the following new partners: *Fugues*, *Fugues.com*, *Pre2 Post*, *Bad Boy Club Montréal Foundation*, *Prestige Média*, *La Voix du Village*, *Gay Canada Guide* and *Impart Litho*.

Canadian News

May 19, 2004 (Ottawa) – *CP* - Canada's recognition of gay marriage is being extended to would-be immigrants. The Immigration Department confirmed that it has begun recognizing same-sex marriages in processing immigration applications. But the change only applies to couples in which one spouse is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. It also applies only to those who marry in Ontario, B.C. or Quebec - the provinces that allow such marriages.

Immigration lawyer El-Farouk Khaki hailed the change. "This will improve the lives of loving and committed same-sex couples who want to live in Canada," he said. "In today's world, it is not at all uncommon for Canadians and non-Canadians to meet, fall in love, and want to marry. If they are denied the ability to marry or denied recognition of their marriage for immigration purposes, their lives will be made unnecessarily difficult."

June 15, 2004 (Toronto, Ontario) - *CP*- For the first time in its history, *Statistics Canada* has released a survey on the sexual orientation of Canadians, but some members of the gay community contend the numbers are dramatically lower than the truth. Figures from the *Canadian Community Health Survey* said that one per cent of Canadians identified themselves as homosexual, while 0.7 per cent said they were bisexual.

Many question the accuracy of the numbers, saying there's reluctance in the gay community to come out in a government survey. "What's clear is that there is under-reporting," said Laurie Arron, director of advocacy for the national gay-rights group *Egale*. He says the number of gay people in society is generally considered to be somewhere between five and 10 per cent.

Along gender lines, the survey found that 1.3 per cent of men considered themselves homosexual compared to 0.7 per cent of women. Some 0.9 per cent of women said they were bisexual, compared to 0.6 of men.

Quebec reported the highest number of homosexuals or bisexuals at 2.3 per cent of the population. British Columbia followed at 1.9 per cent, New Brunswick with 1.6 per cent and Ontario at 1.5 per cent.

StatsCan posed the question not in the interests of politics, but rather in collecting health information about an important segment of society.

Among those findings, 22 per cent of homosexuals and bisexuals said they had unmet health care needs compared with 13 per cent of heterosexuals.

June 29, 2004 (Ottawa) - *CP, 365.com, Egalenews* - Although pollsters were predicting a Conservative landslide in the general election, Canadians reelected the Liberals but handed them only a minority government. The electorate, shaken by Liberal scandals wanted to punish the party, but not enough to elect the new Conservative party which as the campaign wore on looked more and more like the old extreme rightwing Canadian Alliance. As Conservative Party policies on same-sex marriage, health care, and defense became apparent, voters became nervous.

As the Canadian election campaign rolled along, with the homophobic right-wingers pulling into the lead, many gay men and lesbians were feeling the heat. And with good reason: At a stop in Guelph, Ontario, Bob Smyth, an activist for *Canadians for Equal Marriage* was accosted when he pressed Harper on the Conservative position on gay marriage. First he was walloped with a sign, then punched. Then he was hustled out of the meeting by security; the assaulter was let be. All caught on TV.

During the six-week campaign, Conservative leader Stephen Harper attempted to say little about same-sex marriage, other than that his government would oppose it. He would not say whether he would use the notwithstanding clause in the Constitution which allows governments to override court decisions.

But, the man who was touted as the party's likely justice minister was eager to talk. In an interview with a documentary filmmaker, MP Randy White said that a Conservative government would redefine the Charter of Rights and use the notwithstanding clause to overrule court rulings it doesn't agree with, such as same-sex marriage.

"Well the heck with the courts, eh. You know, one of these days we in this country are gong to stand up and say, the politicians make the laws and the courts do not." The film was turned over to the Liberals in the last days of the campaign, and made available to the media.

While Western Canada, a perennial conservative stronghold, enthusiastically supported the Conservative Party, voters disenchanted with the Liberals in Quebec threw their support behind the Bloc Quebecois. In Ontario, the province with the largest number of seats in Parliament, the vote was split between Liberals and the New Democrats.

Beyond this obvious result, though, we have a promising result. Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* enjoys increased support by members of the House of Commons. During the recent election, human rights were placed on the electoral map and Canadian voters chose a majority of MPs who believe in equality.

To underline these results, the *Centre for Research and Information on Canada* and *Environics* released a public opinion survey on Canada Day, which shows increased support for same-sex marriage. Compared

to 48% support last September, 57% of Canadians now feel that "Gays and lesbians should be allowed to get married." Only 38% were opposed with 4% unsure. A whopping 77% of Canadian adults under 30 support same-sex marriage.

A minority government will keep the Liberals on their toes, forcing them to make deals with the New Democrats. And, that could be good for same-sex couples. The NDP is a longtime supporter of gay marriage.

Scott Brison, the gay Progressive Conservative MP who refused to join the merged Conservatives and ran as a Liberal handily won his Nova Scotia riding. Réal Ménard was reelected for the Bloc in Quebec. Libby Davies was reelected for the NDP in British Columbia, as was Bill Siksay, who replaced Svend Robinson. But, Glen Murray, the first openly gay mayor in Canada lost his bid to sit in the House of Commons as a Liberal.

July 20, 2004 (Ottawa) - *365Gay.com* - Scott Brison has become Canada's first openly gay federal cabinet minister. The garrulous Nova Scotia Member of Parliament, former investment banker and leadership contender for the Progressive Conservative party was vaulted into a senior cabinet post by Prime Minister Paul Martin, barely half a year after defecting from the Tories.

Brison, who turned 37 in May, was given Public Works, the sprawling, big-budget department that had a reputation as the musty basement of federal patronage politics even before it cultured the festering sponsorship scandal.

Brison floored the freshly merged Conservative party on Dec. 10 with a scathing defection. "I have no interest in being part of a right-wing debating club where we get together at conventions and debate how to privatize sidewalks," he said of the dominant Alliance fold.

Former New Democrat MP Lorne Nystrom, who worked with Brison on the Commons finance committee, considers Brison a good friend. The veteran New Democrat said Brison's lack of Liberal party connections makes him an ideal candidate to breathe some fresh air into Public Works.

GAY MARRIAGE- A TIME LINE

(Skip over this section if you've had enough on marriage)

Please note: In the United States the marriage debate has gone completely out of control!!! There are initiatives for and against marriage in almost every state. Because of this it would be impossible to cover it all in the context of a newsletter. An excellent coverage of the news in the States, however, is available on the web site of the Human Rights campaign in their marriage center: www.hrc.org/marriage/

A well-organized table of the state-by-state progress can be found if you click on "States with Anti-Gay marriage laws" within this site.

We will still continue to cover general American stories related to the debate.

May 17 - History is made as **Massachusetts** becomes the first state in America to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Each of the seven plaintiff couples in *Goodridge v. The Department of Public Health* - the groundbreaking case that made the marriages possible - marry.

May 17 - **US** President Bush issues a statement renewing his call to Congress to pass a discriminatory amendment to the U.S. Constitution denying marriage for same-sex couples. The President makes this

announcement amidst new polls showing decreasing support for his Federal Marriage Amendment and increasing support for fairness for gay and lesbian families.

Opposition to the amendment increases as people realize that Congress has already passed a federal law denying marriage to same-sex couples and that a constitutional amendment would have to be considered not only in Congress, but also in every state in the nation. An amendment needs approval by a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and House and three-quarters of the states for ratification.

May 18 – (Oklahoma) -Two Native American women apply and are granted a marriage application from a tribal court. The women, who have not been identified, live in the **Tulsa** area. David Cornsilk, a gay Cherokee activist living in Tulsa, helped the women, both members of the tribe, receive the application. Cornsilk says because Cherokee law is genderless there was no reason they should not be allowed to marry. But, after the license application was granted Cherokee Nation Chief Justice Darrell Dowty issued a moratorium on license applications.

May 19 - Sponsors of a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in **California** announce that they will put the bill on hold.

May 27 – (France) - Noel Mamere, the French mayor who wants to marry same-sex couples in his Bordeaux town, is ordered by the local authorities to stop offering his services.

May 27 - Australian Prime Minister John Howard angers gay rights groups across the country by pushing for a ban on same-sex marriage and adoption.

June 3 - (Ottawa) - Canada's opposition Conservatives fuel divisions in the country over same-sex marriage by telling voters that if the party is elected it will consider using a constitutional override to prevent same-sex marriage.

June 3 - (St. Catharine's, Ontario) - The Anglican Church of Canada approves a measure to "affirm the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relationships." The move stops short of authorizing dioceses to hold same-sex blessing ceremonies, but is still likely to complicate efforts aimed at unifying the 77 million-member Anglican Communion. The worldwide Anglican body is deeply divided over homosexuality.

June 5 - The Mayor of a small village near **Bordeaux, France**, marries a same-sex couple. Over the past weeks, there has been quite a controversy in media and official corridors. There is some dispute as to whether the Mayor could perform this ceremony but regardless of the legalities, the event (and extensive coverage) raises the profile of the issue.

June 10 - (Ottawa) - Hundreds of gays and lesbians rally on Parliament Hill, as Conservative Leader Stephen Harper is forced to account in Brampton, Ont. for a party candidate's anti-gay comments. Frank Luellau, the Tory candidate for Kitchener-Conestoga, had said that homosexuality was not a natural kind of relationship.

The rally was planned as a celebration of last year's Ontario Court of Appeal ruling allowing gay couples to marry, but was instead dubbed "don't trash the charter."

June 11- (Toronto) - *Asian Canadians For Equal Marriage* (ACFEM) is officially launched at City Hall. ACFEM is a coalition of non-partisan, multi-faith organizations and individuals from diverse Asian Canadian communities that actively support human rights and equality including that of same-sex marriage.

June 11- The **Swiss** parliament approves a bill granting inheritance and foreign-partner rights to same-sex couples but denying rights to marriage, adoption or in vitro fertilization.

June 16 - The **French** mayor who married a gay couple is formally suspended from his post for a month because of his involvement in the wedding.

June 17 - **Australia's** controversial proposals to forbid same-sex couples from marrying or adopting children are endorsed in the lower house of Parliament.

June 23 - Allowing same-sex couples to marry would have a positive impact on the **U.S.** federal budget, the Congressional Budget Office announces.

June 29 - A federal appeals court rejects a suit claiming that **Massachusetts'** high court overstepped its authority when it compelled the state to marry same-sex couples.

July 1 – Toronto - A survey released today by the *Centre for Research and Information on Canada* and *Environics* shows a large jump in support for equal marriage for same-sex couples. An earlier survey, done in September 2003, showed 48% of Canadians in favour of equal marriage and 47% opposed. The current survey shows 57% of Canadians in favour of equal marriage and 38% opposed, meaning 9% of Canadians have changed their minds.

July 9 - (Washington) - A deeply divided Senate begins debate on the Federal Marriage Amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Democrats accuse the Republicans of playing politics to energize their conservative base and deflect attention from the economy and homeland security.

July 9 - (Johannesburg, South Africa) - South African gay couples have filed suit in the Johannesburg High Court seeking to have a law overturned that restricts marriage to opposite sex couples.

The *Lesbian and Gay Equality Project* is joined by 18 individuals in the case that has taken a decade to reach the high court. South Africa has been a leader in advancing LGBT rights, but marriage has remained elusive. Among the things it would give same-sex couples is the assurance partners could make decisions on each other's behalf and the right to inherit if a partner dies without a will

July 13 - Lawyers clash in a **Massachusetts** courtroom, arguing a 1913 state law that purports to ban non-resident marriages if such a union is void in a couple's home state.

July 14 - (Washington) - The Senate hands President George W. Bush a humiliating defeat by rejecting a bid to amend the US Constitution to ban gay marriage. But, the issue may not be entirely dead. The House is moving towards a fall vote on its own version of an amendment.

The Republican Party is deeply divided on the amendment and the Senate leadership was unable to muster the votes needed for cloture. The vote is 48-50, 12 short of the 60 needed to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans join dozens of Democrats in sealing the amendment's fate.

The hours leading to the vote are filled with emotional and at times angry debate.

July 14 - The Supreme Court of the **Yukon Territory** rules that the Yukon Territorial Government must issue a marriage license to gay couple Rob Edge and Stephen Dunbar and that a marriage between two persons of the same sex is a lawful and valid marriage in the Yukon Territory. The decision makes it even more likely that court challenges in other provinces will succeed, and that governments who fight equal marriage will be liable for costs.

July 20 - Gay rights advocates this week are gearing up for the second battle this month in a **U.S.** congressional showdown over marriage rights for same-sex couples.

July 21- Toronto – A same-sex couple in Toronto seeks a divorce after only 5 days of married life, but the *Divorce Act* as written does not allow for same-sex divorce. Later in the day the Canadian government announces that it would not oppose same-sex couples who seek to divorce.

July 22 – (Washington) - The US House of Representatives passes the *Marriage Protection Act* tying the hands of federal judges from ordering states to recognize gay marriages sanctioned by other states. The measure passes the Republican controlled House by a 233-194 vote.

July 27 – (France) - French authorities officially annul the country's first marriage of a gay couple.

July 30 – (US) - The *American Psychological Association* says it will take a leadership role to help repeal laws that make marriage for gay couples illegal. The association also publicly opposes discrimination against lesbian and gay parents.

International

May 20, 2004 (Durban, South Africa) An international conference has been told that hate crimes against lesbians in South Africa has reached epidemic proportions, that police are doing little to arrest the attackers, and that the victims are stigmatized. Most of the crimes occur in the poor black townships of Soweto and Alexandra said Donna Smith of the *Forum for the Empowerment of Women*.

Speaking at a conference on Marital and Family Therapy, Smith said that the hate crimes included murder, assault, abduction, rape and other humiliating forms of sexual abuse.

Of 46 cases reported to police in more than two years there was only one conviction she said. She also said that the reported cases are "only the tip of the iceberg". Smith said that most lesbians in the townships are afraid to report the crimes because they fear repercussions from coming out to police. Of those women who reported hate crimes against them few received any help from the system.

May 20, 2004 -The *U.S. Food and Drug Administration* announced new guidelines for sperm and tissue donors that appear to make sexually active gay men ineligible as sperm donors.
Story: <http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?2004/05/20/1>

June 3, 2004 - *Gay.com U.K.* -The Supreme Court in **Chile** has repealed a decision to grant a lesbian mother full custody of her children, claiming her sexuality would have a damaging impact on their lives.

Karen Atala had been awarded custody of her three children by a lower appeals court, before her former husband appealed again and pushed the case to the country's highest court.

In the 3-2 decision, the judges presiding over the case granted custody to the father, maintaining that Atala's lesbian relationships disqualified her from any custody rights.

The panel of judges opposed to the custody order said the children could be emotionally and sexually stunted by the "replacement [of a father figure] by another person of the female gender." They also claimed that the children would be subjected to rejection because their family unit was "significantly different" from the norm.

June 9, 2004 - Lesbian and gay people in **Poland's** capital, **Warsaw**, were unable to hold their Pride march, after the city's mayor banned all such events.

Story: <http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?2004/06/09/4>

June 10, 2004 - After **Jamaica's** leading gay rights activist was stabbed and killed in his home, local gay groups blamed his death on homophobia.

Story: <http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?2004/06/10/2>

June 14, 2004 - Record-breaking crowds made the Pride parade in **Sao Paulo, Brazil**, the largest such event in the world. Story: <http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?2004/06/14/3>

June 15, 2004 - *365Gay.com (Washington)* The US Senate passed legislation adding gay and lesbians to the groups protected against hate crimes. The *Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act* passed 65 to 33. The measure adds "real or perceived sexual orientation, gender and disability" to federal hate crime laws, thus allowing the federal government the ability to provide assistance for the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes based on these categories.

June 15, 2004 - *365Gay.com (New Delhi)* Riots over the screenings of a lesbian film have affected 3 cities in India. In the 1st attack an angry mob set fire to a movie theater where a Bollywood film with a lesbian theme was showing. The theater, in the northern town of Varanasi, was showing the film *Girlfriend*. There were no injuries but damage to the building was extensive. The militant Hindu group *Shiv Sena* claimed responsibility.

Nearly 100 people threw stones and burned an effigy of two women. Windows at the theater were smashed and posters destroyed. The theater continued the movie under heavy police guard but cancelled future showings.

A day later, the rioting spread to Jabalpur and Indore in the central Madhya Pradesh state.

Gay themes have been slowly working their way into Bollywood films over the past few years, but each time the movies have been met with opposition.

Fire, a 1998 Hindi-language film that portrayed a love affair between two women, provoked the wrath of hard-line Hindus who claimed it promoted "the alien practice of lesbianism and hurt Indian culture."

India has strict censorship that prevents on-screen nudity and profanity, and sexual acts by consenting gays are illegal under the country's criminal code.

Despite the weekend violence, *Girlfriend* director Karan Razdan said he would not pull the film from distribution. "I'm just trying to show what's happening in society," Razdan told Indian television *Zee News*.

June 15, 2004 - the *American Medical Association* became the latest organization to call for equal parenting rights for same-sex couples. The following organizations also have supportive policy statements:

- * [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#)
- * [American Academy of Family Physicians](#)
- * [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- * [American Anthropological Association](#)
- * [American Bar Association](#)
- * [American Medical Association](#)

- * American Psychiatric Association
- * American Psychoanalytic Association
- * American Psychological Association
- * Child Welfare League of America
- * National Association of Social Workers
- * North American Council on Adoptable Children

June 24, 2004 - 365Gay.com (London) The House of Lords has rejected a bill that would recognize same-sex couples, a crushing defeat for the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair. The legislation, which has already passed the House of Commons, would have allowed same-sex couples to make a legal commitment to each other at a formal ceremony and have similar rights on pensions and property to heterosexual partners.

It would have given full recognition for the purposes of life insurance, the right to take over tenancy rights and pension benefits from a partner and an ability to gain parental responsibility for their civil partner's children.

Conservative Party lords who have consistently thwarted government attempts to pass gay positive legislation gutted the civil union bill by tacking on an amendment that would have extended the law to include relationships such as long term caregivers.

Openly gay Labor peer Lord Alli said: "The amendment was ill-conceived and did nothing other than undermine the purpose of the Bill. This was not a Bill to do ill. This was about same sex couples whose relationships are clearly different from siblings. These are complex issues."

July 2, 2004 - NEW DELHI – (OneWorld) - Ahead of a court hearing on a petition to abolish laws criminalizing homosexuality, rights activists in India are also pressuring the government to give citizens the right to choose their partners.

Voices Against 377 - a coalition of nongovernmental organizations (NGO) such as *Amnesty International*, *Prism*, women's group *Jagori* and the New Delhi-based *Talking about Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues* (TARSHI) - has asked the federal Minister for Law and Justice, Hansraj Bharadwaj, to protect those being discriminated against because of their sexuality.

"We hope the new leadership will stand up to the expectations of the people and demonstrate, in no uncertain terms, its stated commitment to protecting the rights of marginalized sections of society, not in the least those whose very existence has been criminalized by law," states a letter sent to the minister.

Two leading Indian NGOs - the *NAZ Foundation*, a body working against AIDS, and *The Lawyers Collective*, a legal rights group, have gone to court asking for a change in section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that makes homosexuality illegal.

In a demonstration in New Delhi, *Voices Against 377* stressed that it was time the new government - elected in May - steps in to change the law that has been a legacy of India's colonial rulers, the British. India has a rich history of non-heterosexual desires, practices and identities, reflected in literature, art and ancient texts.

Activists hold that gays and '*hijras*' - members of a male-to-female trans-sexual community -- are often physically abused by police. The *Naz Foundation* also points out that since homosexuality is illegal in India, most members of the community keep their sexuality under wraps, making it difficult for groups working against AIDS to reach out to large sections of the people.

Miscellaneous and Research

♦ Cette note a pour but d'attirer votre attention sur l'arrivée de deux nouveaux membres sur le portail communautaire de l'ALGI (Association des lesbiennes et gais sur internet). (FRENCH ONLY)

Il s'agit du « Groupe de recherche sur l'homosexualité et environnement de travail » dirigé par Line Chamberland: <http://www.algi.qc.ca/forum/algi-presse/messages/63.html>

Le deuxième groupe est « Amazones des grands espaces », un groupe de plein air pour lesbiennes: <http://www.algi.qc.ca/forum/algi-presse/messages/64.html>

♦ Avis de parution : Les Guidelines de l'APA maintenant disponibles en français ! Une traduction française des *Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients* publiées en 2000 par l'*American Psychological Association (APA)* est maintenant disponible.

La diffusion de ce document représente un premier jalon dans la mise en oeuvre des recommandations du RQASF.

Pour commander le document

Par courriel : rqasf@rqasf.qc.ca

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Par courrier : 4273 Drolet, bur. 406, Montréal, (Québec), H2W 2L7

Source : Réseau québécois d'action pour la santé des femmes, <http://www.rqasf.qc.ca>

News from the Lesbian Mothers Association

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

SEPTEMBER:

♦ **For adults only: Saturday September 11th at 7 p.m. Welcoming Party!!!**

A chance for old and new members of the group to get to know each other and catch up after summer holidays. We will meet on the **3rd floor of Drugstore at 1366 Ste-Catherine Est (metro Beaudry) in the gay village**. Bring some pizza, nachos or drinks on your way up!

OCTOBER:

♦ **For Future Parents: Saturday October 16th, 6 p.m. Discussion Group and Hors d'oeuvres.**

“Meet the Experts” - Lesbian mothers from the association talk about their everyday experiences as parents: School and Daycare, Bio Moms/ Non-Bio Moms, Dealing with Homophobia, Extended Family, Known Donors, etc.

Place: 6642A Christophe Colomb (metro Beaubien)

Continued next page....

OCTOBER:

♦ **For adults and kids: Saturday October 30th, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Halloween party!!**

What to wear: A Halloween costume!

Activities: Pumpkin decorating, magic show and crafts for the kids. Potluck lunch. If you can: please bring something good to eat or drink (no peanut products please because of allergies).

For suggestions please call 514-846-1543.

Place: Unitarian Church 5035 de Maisonneuve West, corner Claremont (metro Vendome).

Suggested price: \$5 / family.

NOVEMBER:

♦ **For all Parents and Future Parents: Saturday November 20th at 7 p.m. Discussion Group**

Helping Kids Come Out About Us – Group members will discuss experiences that they and their children have had coming out about having a different kind of family. Dealing with school, neighbours, friends, etc. Also coming out to our kids for those who were in heterosexual relationships and have not told their kids yet.

Place: 4734 St André (metro Mont Royal)

DECEMBER:

For adults and kids: Saturday December 4th, from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Holiday activity - 7th Annual Holiday Potluck Lunch

We will be having our holiday party as usual at the **Unitarian Church which is located at 5035 de Maisonneuve O., corner Claremont- (metro Vendome)**. If you're planning on attending please **contact us before December 1st** to let us know what you plan to bring. We suggest bringing enough for approximately 8 people. You can bring something in the categories of either **salad, main dish, dessert or beverage (e.g. juice or soft-drinks)**. Please do not to bring anything with peanuts onto the premises because of allergies. We are suggesting a donation of **\$5 per family (if possible)** in order to cover the expenses which include the rental of the space, the gate-keeper's salary, paper plates, napkins, etc as well as entertainment provided for the kids. Please call to let us know if you are planning on attending and what you would like to bring at **514-846-1543 before December 1st**.

BULLETIN BOARD:

Mère et fille de 9 ans cherche mère et enfant du même âge (fille de préférence) pour faire des sorties, activités, etc. Écrire à: mjlegault@arobas.net

MISCELLANEOUS:

Traductrices , redactrices, etc: We are looking for volunteers to help translate this newsletter from English to French. Any contribution (even 1-2 pages a month) would be appreciated. If you are available and willing, **please contact us at: info@aml-lma.org**

Are there any new moms out there who want to get together for coffee and conversation? If interested, call Suzie at 514-842-6884.

Bonjour à toutes ! Nous venons tout récemment d'amménager dans la ville de Québec et nous trouverions enrichissant de rencontrer d'autres mères et futurs mères lesbiennes comme nous. Alors si ça vous intéresse, écrivez-nous ! À bientôt! Marie-Christyne Élie & Mélanie Lambert
Mariechristyne@hotmail.com

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Batshaw Youth and Family Centres is encouraging English speaking and bilingual 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 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@aml-lma.org or by post to AML, 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.

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