International Family Visibility Day Poster

This poster was designed and illustrated by Suzy Malik in 2012 for the first International Family Visibility Day. Working with designer Pam Sloan, we recently restyled the poster to include the French and English text on the same side of the poster and to feature upcoming dates for the next several years, as well as our new logo. The poster, like most of our resources, is available to order online from the Rainbow Health Ontario store: lgbtpn.ca/order

The theme for this issue of Pride & Joy is Adversity and Celebration. We recognize the very different conditions, struggles and challenges faced by LGBTQ parents in a global context. We want to honour this diversity, express our solidarity with LGBTQ parents around the globe, and celebrate the creative ways people are approaching what is often enormous adversity.

Here in Canada we enjoy unprecedented rights as LGBTQ parents and the advances we have made have a huge impact on our daily lives and the lives of our children. Toronto is hosting World Pride - an international celebration incorporating activism, education, and the history and culture of global communities which will highlight Canada’s continued progress in human rights, and the diversity of Toronto. World Pride provides us with an opportunity to reflect on and appreciate these rights and privileges, and to express our solidarity with LGBTQ people in other parts of the globe whose struggles for basic human rights are being met with violence and repression.

International conversations and activism on LGBTQ issues have reached a new level of global prominence. In the US, the debate over parental recognition and same-sex marriage continues, and increasingly, more and more families are able to access second parent adoption and marriage rights.

In Russia, increasingly restrictive government actions and violence continue. Prominent LGBTQ parents with international connections and financial means have emigrated while others have gone underground, due to a very real fear of losing custody of their children. Russian law has long restricted adoption of Russian children by LGBTQ people both in Russia and abroad. Russian politicians debated dissolving the parenting rights of LGBTQ parents, but leading up to the Sochi Olympics, the legislation disappeared, though it is expected to be reintroduced with some minor modifications.
Ongoing criminalization of sexual and gender diversity has forced LGBTQ people from countries, including Uganda and Iran, to seek status as refugees in Canada. In other countries, there is no criminalization, but persecution and a lack of response by authorities motivates refugee claimants.

While Canada was a world leader in accepting refugee claims on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity starting in 1992, we have an increasingly restrictive process that presents specific challenges to LGBTQ refugee claimants. Immigration regulations define sexuality as innate and unchangeable, and many newcomers struggle to explain complex lives and experiences that may not fit with Canadian understandings of LGBTQ identities. While all LGBTQ refugee claimants find their sexuality is questioned, parents often have their children used against them, as if being a parent and also being LGBTQ-identified are mutually exclusive. Bisexual people who have or have had opposite sex partners are not well-served by rigid understandings of sexuality. World Pride provides an opportunity to reflect on the challenges in Canada to recognize the diversity and complexity of LGBTQ parenting communities. Many LGBTQ newcomers, including refugees, face racism and other forms of discrimination.

Despite the gains we have achieved in Canada, LGBTQ parents continue to face exclusions based on discriminatory ideas about what is appropriate for children. For example, this past year, a controversial motion at the Toronto District School Board led to debate over the board’s participation in Toronto Pride. In the end, trustees voted to pass a motion reaffirming their commitment to supporting Pride as a celebration and a political event:

“... be it resolved that the Toronto District School Board reaffirm its commitment to supporting Pride Toronto by encouraging staff and students to continue to celebrate the history, courage and diversity of Toronto’s LGBTTIQQ2SA communities including a recognition that Pride is both a celebration and a political event that has greatly added to the richness of the city of Toronto.”

We applaud this recognition that our multi-faceted LGBTQ communities include children and provide a vibrant environment in which to grow. Again, out of adversity and challenge comes celebration and pride.

FIND US AT FAMILY PRIDE!
Saturday, June 28 & Sunday, June 29, 2014
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Church Street Junior Public School

Family Pride is organized by the Family Pride Committee in collaboration with community partners, including the LGBTQ Parenting Network, The 519, and Ten Oaks Project.

For more information about Family Pride, please visit the WorldPride Toronto website:
www.worldpridetoronto.com/festival/family-pride
Are you considering parenthood? Do you want to explore practical, emotional, social, and legal issues? Are you interested in meeting other LGBTQ prospective parents?

**For more information, current dates, and registration visit:**
lgbtqpn.ca/familyplanning
or contact:
lgbtqpn@sherbourne.on.ca

**DYKES PLANNING TYKES**
This 12-week course emphasizes donor insemination, adoption, and co-parenting for lesbian, bi, and queer-identified women.

**WEDNESDAYS FROM 7PM TO 9PM**
FALL 2014: September 10 to December 3
WINTER 2015: TBA

**DADDIES & PAPAS 2B**
This 12-week course emphasizes adoption, surrogacy, and co-parenting for gay, bi, and queer-identified men.

**DYKES PLANNING TYKES WEEKEND INTENSIVE**
Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday.
This course emphasizes donor insemination, adoption, and co-parenting for lesbian, bi, and queer-identified women.
An accessible option for those outside Toronto.

**Dates:** Spring 2015, TBA

**QUEER PARENTING PROGRAMS**

**LGBTQ family planning courses are joint programs of**
Queer Parenting Programs at
The 519 Church Street Community Centre and LGBTQ Parenting Network at Sherbourne Health Centre
NEWS FROM THE LGBTQ PARENTING NETWORK

Rachel Epstein has returned from her leave and, after several busy months, is happy to announce that she has completed her PhD dissertation entitled “Married, Single or Gay? Queerying and Trans-Forming Assisted Human Reproduction Services.” She has been doing many trainings around the province and working on fundraising and coordination of the Creating Our Families theatre to video project, which you can read about on page 13.

We have been thrilled to welcome Dana Baitz to the office to coordinate the year-long Trans Family Law Project. This project offers trans parents and their service providers information about family law, and offers information about trans parents to lawyers and legal workers in Ontario. Dana is a proud mom and PhD accredited researcher, as well as being a professional musician and composer. Read more about this project on pages 6-7.

Andy Inkster is glad to have a full crew aboard, and over the past several months, he has been working on developing new resources, particularly the second parent adoption info sheet and self-help legal guide, and leading the redevelopment of the LGBTQ PN website.

Creating an LGBTQ Parenting Archive

The LGBTQ Parenting Network has been in operation since 2001, and our office houses a rich collection of materials that encapsulate a huge piece of the history of queer and trans parenting organizing and community development in Toronto. We are interested in donating this material to an archive where it can be accessible to researchers and interested community members.

We are working with the University of Toronto, Faculty of Information to set up a practicum opportunity for an archives student. Rebecka Sheffield, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee at the Canadian Gay and Lesbian Archives, will supervise the project. For more information: repstein@sherbourne.on.ca.

Social and Support Groups

Still Trying…LGBTQ fertility support group has been meeting regularly, and the energy, support and interest for this group continues to increase. Dahlia, the group’s facilitator, gives an update on page 8.

LGBTQ Adoption Group will continue to meet in 2014-15. The adoption group is open to parents who have adopted and their children of all ages. Parents share strategies, frustrations, and joys, while the kids have a chance to play together with supervision. More information on page 8.
New Website

We’re very excited to announce we have been working with web developers Design De Plume on building a new website. Our new digital home is www.LGBTQParentingNetwork.ca and we expect a clean transition from the existing site to the new one over the summer.

Family Planning Courses

These courses are a joint program with Queer Parenting Programs at The 519 Church Street Community Centre. We offered two twelve-week sessions of Dykes Planning Tykes facilitated by Nila Gupta, and two twelve-week sessions of Daddies & Papas 2B facilitated by Chris Veldhoven from The 519. Nila and Rachel co-facilitated a Dykes Planning Tykes Weekend Intensive in April.

Check out page 3 for more information about family planning courses.

Events

The second LGBTQ Family Camp was a huge success! We were at YWCA Camp Tapawingo in Parry Sound over a September weekend. Like last year, it was fully attended. This year, in response to increasing demand from families, we are planning a camp day at Camp Naivelt in Brampton. More information on page 18.

In partnership with Rainbow Health Ontario, we hosted a one-day conference Celebrating Gender Independent Children for kids whose gender expression doesn’t match the artificial male-boy and female-girl gender binary. The day included children, their parents and caregivers.

In February, Family Day was hosted at the Winter Games Lounge run by PrideHouseTO on campus at Ryerson. At least 100 people made their way indoors for the family day crafts, games, and celebrations, while a few hearty souls made their way onto the ice outside.

2nd Parent Adoption Self-Help Legal Guide

With the guidance and coaching of Jen Keystone, we have developed a series of tools to help families with their second parent adoption paperwork. Several families have successfully completed their own second parent adoptions over the past year.

We now have step-by-step instructions for completing the paperwork, information about obtaining independent legal advice for parents and sperm donors, as well as information about how to file your own paperwork with the court.

Please visit lgbtqpn.ca/2PA or contact ainkster@sherbourne.on.ca for more information.
Trans parents in Ontario are often denied access to their children simply because they are trans. The Trans Family Law Project will help prevent these painful situations by ensuring better access to justice for trans parents. We’re doing this by creating two sets of educational materials: some that inform trans parents about family law, and some that provide lawyers with a better awareness of trans people and the legal challenges they may face.

The Transforming Family report described a strong and troubling pattern of trans parents being denied access to their children once the parent transitions.

Even though legal protections exist in Ontario for trans people and courts have ruled that being trans is not a negative influence on parenting, parents who transition continue to be considered “unfit parents” by their partners, by courts, and sometimes even in their own minds as a result of internalized transphobia. As a result, even though gender expression and gender identity are protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code, trans parents find their custody and access rights are regularly challenged, and many parents agree to sign orders that restrict their contact with their children.

As two mothers in our focus groups put it:

“I’m not allowed to go to the school because it’s in our divorce agreement... I know that it’s not fair, but it was put in the divorce agreement because I’m just so weird... right?”

“My father told me it would be better if I were to disappear from my child’s life, and pretend that I had died, than for him to have a trans parent.”

Research Report
Transforming Family: Trans Parents and their Struggles, Strategies, and Strengths is a report written by Jake Pyne, MSW, on behalf of the LGBTQ Parenting Network. It was published in November 2012. lgbtqpn.ca/TransFormingFamilyReport

Dana Baitz, Trans Family Law Project Coordinator
Sadly, stories like these are not uncommon. They clearly show that trans parents in Ontario require better access to justice. Trans parents themselves require more information about their rights and legal options, and better access to legal representation. Partners and families of trans parents are in need of support also, so that legal disputes can be avoided and acceptance is promoted. Legal professionals require information about the challenges that trans parents face, and how to respond to those challenges in court settings.

We spoke with trans parents and their loved ones, LGBT service providers, lawyers and legal educators across Ontario to determine the best ways to improve trans parents’ access to justice. Based on their excellent ideas, we are producing a wide range of trans family law learning materials, due out this summer:

- A Community Fact Sheet, outlining family law information for trans parents and service providers in Ontario
- Four Community Webinars that will present family law information to trans parents and service providers
- A detailed Legal Backgrounder, helping to familiarize legal professionals with transgender lives and legal issues
- Four Legal Webinars that will educate lawyers and mediators about “trans family law,” and provide them with an opportunity to discuss the topic with legal experts in this field

The Trans Family Law Project is an initiative of the LGBTQ Parenting Network. It is a Connecting Communities project, supported by Community Legal Education Ontario. These materials were made possible by a grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario. Please contact Dana Baitz at transparents@sherbourne.on.ca to find out more.

Interested in watching a video about the project or downloading resources? lgbtqpn.ca/transfamilylaw
The LGBTQ Parenting Network offers educational workshops, trainings and presentations on a wide range of LGBTQ parenting issues and themes. Some highlights from this year:

- We collaborated with the Best Start Resource Centre to offer workshops in Oakville and Ottawa, based on the resource: Welcoming and Celebrating Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity in Families From Preconception to Preschool (For a free download: lgbtqpn.ca/BestStart)

- We participated in Rainbow Health Ontario’s Pre-conference Learning Institute on Research and Practice. Rachel presented as part of a panel on the relationship between research and practice in the 2007 Ontario Birth Registration case.

- We worked with organizers in London, Ontario to offer a workshop for service providers titled “What Does it Mean to Be a Queer Positive Professional?”

- We collaborated with the Family Care Office at the University of Toronto to offer Queer & Trans Family Planning workshops at both the Downtown (St. George) and Mississauga campuses.

- In partnership with Gender Journeys at Sherbourne Health Centre, we offered workshops on trans parenting and parenting before and after transition.

- We provided a training workshop to medical students at McMaster University and another at a Faculty of Health Sciences conference, “Guiding Practice: Current Issues in Gender, Sexuality and Health.”

- Each year we offer training workshops to student midwives at Ryerson and McMaster universities and we conduct trainings and workshops at daycares, schools, community colleges, fertility clinics and other professional settings.

For more information, or to discuss a specific training, contact Rachel Epstein: repstein@sherbourne.on.ca (416) 324 4100 ext. 5219
GROUPS & SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

STILL TRYING...
An informal fertility support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer people who are in the process of trying to conceive.

Meetings are held on Mondays, once a month from 6:30-8:30 PM at Sherbourne Health Centre.

For further information on the group, including current dates, please see lgbtqn.ca/stilltrying

We are pleased to offer this group with significant interest from the community, and want to thank our volunteer facilitator, Dahlia Riback, for all of her work with this group over the past several months.

LGBTQ ADOPTION GROUP
Featuring a light lunch, snacks and activities, this is a program for the whole family. This group provides peer support and lively conversation around issues related to adoption for LGBTQ adoptive parents.

Children and youth have an opportunity to play, craft, and snack together with supervision in the next room.

Meets the third Saturday of the month from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM at Sherbourne Health Centre.

UPCOMING DATES:
TBD

For more information and to join the mailing list visit lgbtqn.ca/adoptiongroup or e-mail ainkster@sherbourne.on.ca

KALEIDOSCOPE
Do you want activities and events for your kids?
Are your kids interested in spending time with other kids and youth from LGBTQ families?

There is very little programming for school-aged kids and their families. Youth from queer families also want to have programming and activities that are accessible to them.

If your family is interested in exploring programming possibilities, please contact us with your ideas.

We hope to hold a community meeting with parents, kids, and youth.

• What programming do school aged kids need?
• What programming do youth need?
• Who else is already offering programs for our families?
• How can the LGBTQ Parenting Network support your needs?
• What kinds of activities can parents and youth coordinate?

Right now, we have more questions than answers. We hope you will join us for the community consultation or send your ideas to us.

Please e-mail ainkster@sherbourne.on.ca for more information about any of our groups. To get updates on the groups, make sure you are getting our eNews lgbtqn.ca/eNews or keeping tabs on us on Facebook /LGBTQPN
The LGBTQ Parenting Network is an International Family Equality Day global partner with our colleagues at NELFA (Network of European LGBT Families Associations) and Family Equality Council (USA). Events are hosted the first Sunday in May by LGBTQ parenting organizations around the world.

This year’s theme was “Welcoming Family Diversity” – celebrations were held in 48 cities in 22 countries this year. We were proud to celebrate in Toronto, one of the most diverse cities in the world. Next year, we hope to encourage Canadian organizations to participate by hosting local picnics across Canada.

While Canada has long been a global leader in recognizing the parenting rights of LGBTQ people, this year a new family law act in BC clarified the difference between parents, donors, and gestational carriers in the birth registration process. Several recent legal changes in Europe and the US have improved family recognition for some LGBTQ parents.

Second-parent adoption is now available to parents in 13 European Union countries: Austria has recently joined Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

**Austria**

Our colleagues at NELFA presented written comments at the European Court of Human Rights. The court agreed that not allowing same-sex parents access to second parent adoption discriminated against those families.

The decision in the European Court of Human Rights will likely mean that legislation in other countries will be amended to allow same-sex couples to apply for second-parent adoption, in countries that already permit unmarried heterosexual couples to do so. We expect changes to legislation changes in Andorra, parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Portugal and Romania in the coming months and years.
“NELFA brings together LGBT parents and parents-to-be from all over Europe. We know how important it is for our children to be protected under the law. Our children deserve the same level of legal and social protection of any other child, no matter their family configuration. This decision is one more step in the right direction, to bring full equality for our families and our children. NELFA rejoices in this decision and looks forward to further progress in Austria.”

– Luis Amorin, NELFA

International Family Equality Day is a project led by LGBTQ activists and advocates from Europe (Network for European LGBT Families Associations), the US (Family Equality Council), and Canada (LGBTQ Parenting Network).

United States

This year marked the repeal of the “Defense Of Marriage Act” or DOMA. In US law, family recognition is closely tied to marriage, and laws vary from one state to another. As a result of complex variations in laws affecting relationship recognition, adoption, and second parent adoption, LGBTQ parents and their children in the US do not all have the same access to family recognition. A very recent decision in Michigan has allowed same-sex families to access second parent adoption. We expect increased access to recognition of same-sex coupled families across the US. Hopefully, the continuing emphasis on marriage will not mean the exclusion of other equity issues.

“We know that it is not what our families look like that is important; it is the love and stability we provide to our children. This ruling is yet another reminder that equality is on the march across this nation and the momentum is only growing.”

– Gabriel Blau, Family Equality Council

SAVE THE DATE!
FAMILY VISIBILITY DAY BBQ
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM @ Christie Pits Park

MAY 3
2015

FAMILY VISIBILITY DAY

FAMILY EQUALITY COUNCIL

International Family Equality Day
FAMILY DAY 2014

In February, our Family Day celebration was hosted by PrideHouseTO at the Winter Games Lounge at Ryerson University. PrideHouseTO is working to celebrate LGBTQ communities in Ontario during and leading up to the 2015 Pan/Para-Pan Am Games. We are grateful to Ryerson Catering for their support of our event.

FAMILY CAMP

In September Family Camp was hosted again at YWCA Camp Tapawingo in Parry Sound, Ontario. We are very grateful to Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto for their support of Family Camp through a Community Outreach Partnership Grant. This year, we will be holding Family Camp Day in August at Camp Naivelt, near Brampton.
In 2010-11 the Creating Our Families (COF) research project interviewed 66 LGBTQ people across Ontario about their interactions with fertility clinics. Based on this data the COF research team developed a theatre piece that humanized the experiences LGBTQ people are having in fertility clinics, including the barriers we face.

The theatre piece was designed to be interactive, to allow people from LGBTQ communities and fertility clinic staff to actually get on stage and practice what might make things better. And practice they did! Counsellors, clinic managers, nurses, doctors, technicians and LGBTQ community members came on stage to explore how these scenes might look different.

The response was extremely positive, with people describing it as engaging, humorous, creative, educational, and realistic. One service provider enthusiastically responded:

“The experiences as performed in the workshop were shocking, eye-opening and traumatic. This presentation highlighted practical ways in which we can make ART services truly accessible to the LGBTQ community.”

Since the original performances of the theatre piece we have received numerous requests for presentations from individual fertility clinics, reproductive medicine conferences and other professional development and community settings. The LGBTQ Parenting Network is currently producing a series of online videos and associated educational materials which will make this work widely accessible, available at anytime, anywhere.

The videos and background materials will be used by LGBTQ community members as they prepare to bring children into their lives, and by AHR professionals who are interested in improving the quality of their services to LGBTQ people. It will be available free of charge online.

We are excited to be working on this project with Pam Snell, who comes with extensive professional experience in community-based theatre and video, as well as first-hand knowledge and academic interest in LGBTQ parenting issues. We are also drawing on the knowledge of AHR practitioners, LGBTQ parenting community workers and community members as we develop the project.

The video project was partially funded by:

CREATE Fertility Centre  
(Dr. Ari Y. Baratz, Dr. Karen Glass,  
Dr. Clifford Librach, Dr. Prati Sharma)
Mount Sinai Hospital,  
Centre for Fertility and Reproductive Health  
First Steps Fertility  
Lifequest Centre for Reproductive Medicine  
ReproMed - The Toronto Institute for Reproductive Medicine
PRIDE & JOY IS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME:

**Did you or are you about to welcome a new member of your family?**
To place an announcement for Pride & Joy 2015, please e-mail a photo of the best resolution possible (at least 300 DPI) and an announcement of up to 100 words to lgbtqpn@sherbourne.on.ca

**CONGRATULATIONS!** The LGBTQ Parenting Network would like to extend our congratulations to all members of our communities who have recently welcomed children into their lives, including those who cannot announce their new arrivals here.

**ADELAIDE FINLEY**
After a long wait, Joy Burlton and Maggie Anderson are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Adelaide Finlay Olive Burlton-Anderson! She was born on March 19th in her own time at 42 weeks, weighing 8lbs 14ounces. She loves lights, the vibrating bouncy chair and boobies :)

**ALIDA ROWAN**
Bookended between a snowstorm and an ice storm, proud mums Alexandra and Emily were pleased to welcome the arrival of Alida Rowan Kaempffer Wadsworth on December 16, 2013. Her sweet disposition and her infectious laugh fill our lives with a new kind of happiness.

**ASHER FIVEL WOLF**
Very excited to welcome this bean to the breathing world... Asher Fivel Wolf joined us outside on the evening of March 13th, 2014. Since that time, we’ve been busy sharing many new joys: bare chest burping snuggles, fists unswaddled, light and shadow, pooping, and milk... the ultimate ecstasy.

**BEN GREGER-GALLO**
On Friday, May 23rd 2014, Lucy, Stacey and Rhys Greger-Gallo welcomed baby Ben into their family. Ben was born at home and was 7 lbs. 14 oz.. The midwife said he came out with a smile.
Welcome to the world little man! Ian Duncan and Danny Smith are happy to announce the birth of their son, Carson James Smith-Duncan on July 30th, 2013. Daddy (Ian) and Dada (Danny) love you very much. You've always been in our hearts and now you're in our arms.

Ash and Miranda are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Charlie Main, who was born on June 26th, 2013. She weighed 8.1 pounds, and measured 20 inches. We are very thankful to our family, friends, Midwifery Care of Peel and the Obstetrical Team at Trillium Health Centre. Her big blue eyes and long lashes capture everyone she meets, and her smile is infectious. Charlie has brought so much happiness to our lives, and we are looking forward to the many more experiences that being a parent will bring. Also, a warm, “Hello” to the Dykes Planning Tykes weekend intensive from April 2012.

On July 16, 2012 Helen Hargreaves and Lesley Anne Hargreaves (Merlin) were thrilled to welcome the amazing Eleanor Anne Hargreaves, born at home and in the water. She has grown into a compassionate and adventurous little girl who is very loved by her known donor, six grandparents, fairy god siblings, aunts, uncles and a big queer family. Her mommy and mama would be lost without them all.

The Baer family is excited to welcome a new cub to the Baer den. Emory William Douglas Baer was born on May 16th, 2014 at 8:43pm to proud parents Michelle and Pam. His Grandma, Grandpa, Nonna, and Nonno are thrilled with the arrival of their first grandchild. Special thank you to Anita Bright and the amazing team at the Midwife Alliance for their support and guidance through this journey. Emory is a precious little bundle whom we love beyond words.
ESME FLORENCE

With great joy and gratitude Cheryl and Sarah welcomed their daughter Esme Florence into the Hawthorn family. Born March 14th at 3:30am, smack dab between the birthdays of both her mamas. Esme earthed herself in the comfort of her home supported by 7th Generation Midwives, our wonderful doula and was welcomed by an abundance of family and friends. We are looking forward to this grand adventure!

FINN AND ISAAC

Finn Avery Consitt-Wickett and Isaac Ashton Consitt-Wickett were welcomed into the world by their two moms on July 14th, 2013. After 38 weeks in utero, our twin boys tipped the scales at 8lbs 3 oz (Finn) and 6lbs 2oz (Isaac). We are grateful for all the love and support we have received from friends and family. Finn and Isaac, we fall in love you both more and more each day!

HENDRIX

Meghan and Lin are overjoyed to announce the birth of their beautiful son. Hendrix Mackay Hodgkinson-Stewart was born on January 15, 2014, weighing in at 9lbs 2oz. He has brought so much joy to our lives and his smiles are already melting our hearts. His Granny, Gramps and many aunts and uncles are happy for the new addition to the family. Big siblings Jacob and Sarah are so proud and excited, and they have been a big help to their moms.

MAËL ALEK

Maël Alek 6lb 15oz, joins big brothers Leandré (b.2006) and Rhys (b.2010) increasing the Johnson-Calixte rodeo show to a total of three cowboys. We all welcomed Maël at his speedy delivery on February 15th at home, in Sudbury. Shana and Jennifer welcome contacts from old friends jjjohnson@laurentian.ca!
PRIDE & JOY IS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME:

MAGNUS AMOS AND YAEI SARA

Chris and Yiftach joyfully announce the birth of their son Magnus Amos and his sister Yael Sara. The twins were born on October 2013 in Hamilton. Everyone is well, including the gestational surrogate, Sara.

MICAH MARGARET

Proud parents Anna Penner and Meredith Rappaport are thrilled to announce the birth of our daughter, Micah Margaret Penner Rappaport. Micah was born on November 22, 2014, at 6:38 AM, at Toronto East General Hospital, weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces. We are very grateful for the love of our family and friends, and for the care and support of our awesome midwives Tracy Gerster, Esther Willms, and Nabal Kanaan from The Midwives Clinic of East York-Don Mills.

MOLLYE PATRICIA

Bev Lepischak and Anna Travers were blessed with their fourth granddaughter in 2013. Mollye Patricia was born at home, to Jess Lyons and Jonah Gindin on July 19, 2013 during a massive summer rainstorm. Big sister Ruby loves little Mollye dearly, and tries very hard to be helpful …most of the time.

NICO AMIRA

Proud moms Jordan and Karine are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Nico on September 28th, 2013. We are deeply grateful for the love from grandparents Jan, Jim, Paula, Alan and Yvette, the amazing care from our midwives, and the continuous support from our community of friends.
SKYE SOPHIE RUDOLPH-DRUMMOND
Katja Rudolph, Ali Drummond, and Luca Bella Rudolph-Drummond are thrilled to announce the birth of Skye Sophie Rudolph-Drummond on March 26th, at home, at noon, with bright sunshine streaming through the windows.

TROY JUSTICE
Welcome to the world Troy Justice Kabir Newbold, who was born at home on August 23rd, 2013 weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces. Born to the warm embrace and powerful love of his mummy and family!

VIVIANA & ROMEO
Christina and Kerry Sorbara are happy to announce the December 31, 2013 birth of their second and third child, Viviana Marisa Weiland Sorbara and Romeo Hatcher Weiland Sorbara. The twins join big brother Massimo and furry sidekick Pesto. Welcomed by their grandparents Terry and Teri, his nonni Edward and Marisa, and all their loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Thank you to midwives Hedrey, Erin, Isabel and the staff at Mount Sinai Hospital and St. Michael’s Hospital.

ZEV MARIUS NAGRA-TOTH
Proud mamas Narina Nagra & Gabi Toth welcomed Zev into the world on June 28, 2013 - the best Pride gift ever! He makes everyday so special with his beautiful smile and laugh.
SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014

The LGBTQ Parenting Network goes to Camp Naivelt near Brampton!

Join us for a day of nature walks, swimming, bird watching, playing in the river, music and an evening campfire.

FAMILY DAY EXTRAVAGANZA!

FEATURING GAMES, ACTIVITIES, ENTERTAINMENT!

Monday, February 16, 2015 from 11:00am to 3:00pm
Sherbourne Health Centre - 333 Sherbourne Street, Toronto, Ontario

DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE IN JANUARY 2015
The LGBTQ Parenting Network supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer parents, prospective parents, and their families through training, research, resource development, and community organizing. We are a program of Sherbourne Health Centre in Toronto and we work with individuals, organizations and communities from the local to the international.

Sherbourne Health Centre
333 Sherbourne Street, Toronto Ontario M5A 2S5
lgbtqpn@sherbourne.on.ca