

Communiqué

Volume XIV: no. 5 mai-juin/May-June 1993

New Brunswick to include gays and lesbians

Provincial government expands the definition of "common-law spouse"

The New Brunswick government has expanded the definition of "common-law spouse" to include same-sex couples. This gives gays and lesbians who work for the province access to health and dental plans, life insurance, and pension benefits for their spouses. (*text of government memo below*)

Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Brent Taylor from the Confederation of Regions party (CoR) called this a "further invasion of what is appropriately considered a family unit. The government is officially sanctioning what is considered by many to be an unacceptable practice." The changes fall in line with amendments to the provincial Human Rights Act passed by the legislature

in May, 1992 which bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. CoR opposed those changes, saying they went against the moral code of the majority of New Brunswickers. The Liberal Party, which controls the legislature, has been making these changes.

Provincial New Democratic Party leader Elizabeth Weir, who has campaigned strongly against sexual discrimination, said she can't understand what the fuss is about. The protection of families in any form is a laudable goal, she said, and MLAs should have more important matters to debate in the legislature. "My advice to the official opposition is to haul themselves out of the mud and leave the dinosaur days behind." ▼

Texte de la

Note Interservices

A: Directeurs de ressources humaines, agents des ressources humaines et agents de la feuille de paye
DE: Isaobel MacKinnon
OBJECT: Modification de définition, Personne admissible au régime, Conjoint

Pour tous les régimes d'assurance, sauf le régime d'assurance-invalidité de longue durée, le Comité permanent sur les régimes d'assurance a défini le terme "Personne admissible au régime", selon la description qui figure dans la documentation ci-jointe. En outre, dans le régime volontaire d'assurance en cas de mort et de mutilation accidentelles, et dans les régimes d'assurances santé et de soins dentaires, la définition de conjoint a été modifiée pour inclure les conjoints du même sexe.

Dorénavant, par on entend: a) la personne à laquelle un employé est

marié; b) la personne avec qui l'employé, même s'il n'est pas marié, réside depuis au moins un an dans une situation matrimoniale immédiatement avant (d'être admissible comme assuré et aussi immédiatement avant d'être éligible pour une réclamation) et qui est officiellement déclarée conjoint de l'employé. La définition inclut les personnes du même sexe.

Une seule personne peut être admise comme conjoint. Si un employé a plus d'un conjoint, la personne avec laquelle l'employé est marié, est reconnue comme conjoint. Ces modifications entrent en vigueur le 1^{er} avril 1993. Veuillez vous assurer que tous les employés, ou tous les personnes admissible au régime, en sont informés.

Text of the

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Directors of Human Resources, Human Resources Officers and Payroll Officers **FROM:** Isaobel MacKinnon

SUBJECT: Changes in Definitions, Eligible Plan Participant, Spouse
This is to advise that, for all benefit programs other than Long Term Disability Insurance, the definition of Eligible Plan Participant has been defined by the Standing Committee on Insured Benefits as per attached. In addition, the definition of "common-law spouse" under the Dependent Life, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance, Health Plan and Dental Plan, has been amended to include spouses of the same sex. The revised definition of spouse is outlined below: "Spouse" means an individual: a) to whom the

insured employee is legally married or b) with whom the insured employee, though not legally married, has cohabited continuously, in a conjugal relationship, for at least one year immediately prior (to become eligible to be insured and also immediately prior to being eligible for a claim) and who has been publicly represented as the insured employee's spouse. "Spouse" shall include partners of the same sex.

Only one individual will qualify as a spouse. If the insured employee has more than one spouse using the above basis, the spouse will be the individual to whom the employee is legally married. These changes become effective April 1, 1993. Please ensure that all employees, or plan participants, are made aware of these changes.

Lesbian makes her presence known

Senator Addresses Unitarians and Teens

Aroostook County got a double whammy from Maine's most prominent lesbian politician, Senator Dale McCormick. Tuesday evening, May 30, she spoke to members of the congregation of the Caribou Unitarian-Universalist Church to discuss L.D. 246, "An Act to Prevent Discrimination". About 30 people, including about 10 "Lambs", were in attendance to hear the Monmouth Democrat answer questions about the need for the civil rights bill, its chances of passage, and the history of the effort of Maine's lesbian-gay-bi community to gain our civil rights. She also gave a brief oral biography of her life as teacher/carpenter-turned-politician.

The following morning she presented a keynote address to an overflow crowd of teenagers from throughout the County at the annual Teen Conference, sponsored by the Aroostook County Action Program's Family Planning/Adolescent Health office. Several weeks of publicity about the Senator's presence at the conference

continued inside ✻

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CP/POB 990 Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai 207.498-2088 (TDD/Voice-Voix)

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Northern Lambda Nord benefits from your long distance calls if your phone company is CommunitySpirit! They donate 2% of your out-of-state charges to NLN. Plus, they have competitive low rates, a free calling card, are 100% digital fibre-optic, and there's no switch-over fee. Don't delay!

Call 1-800 487-6877 today!

Symposium XX - \$\$ is available

If any Northern Lambda Nord members have thought of going to the Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XX near Waterville May 28-31 but have hesitated because of financial reasons, NLN has money to help finance your registration fees. This money was set aside after last year's Lambda-hosted Symposium XIX, specifically for this purpose.

If you wish to take advantage of this fund, contact Lambda by May 8. On May 9 the balance of the money will be made available to non-Lambs needing assistance. Please send your request to POB 990, Caribou 04736 and state how much funding you need. ▼

Non-Discrimination Law Passes Maine Legislature

As of April 18, the final vote in the Maine House was 71-58 to amend the Maine Human Rights Act to protect persons from discrimination in housing, employment, credit and public

accommodation based upon their sexual orientation. The Senate, in the first of two votes, passed the bill 21-14; a second and final vote in the Senate will be held after their April recess.

Of the 15 members of the Aroostook delegation, those voting yes were Senator Judy Paradis (representing Fort Kent/Madawaska/Van Buren/New

Buren/New Sweden), Elizabeth Pinette (Frenchville), and Speaker of the House John Martin (Eagle Lake), all Democrats. Rep. Douglas Ahearne, Democrat from Madawaska, voted no along with the eight County

Republicans. Governor John McKernan again threatened to veto the bill unless a referendum amendment is attached. This is the same threat he used two years ago, when the legislature failed to pass the bill. This time, however, the

House has rejected the addition of any referendum amendment, and after their recess the Senate may do the same. The bill will then go to the governor where he may sign it, veto it, or let it become law after 10 days without his signature. ▼

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Senator Speaks

preceded her 40-minute address on "self-esteem". Some school systems, including Hodgdon and Madawaska, refused to provide transportation for those students who had registered to attend. Several area Baptist ministers made statements to the press about the inappropriateness of a lesbian speaking to teenagers, fearing the promotion of homosexuality. There was so much negative feedback that ACAP and the University of Maine at Presque Isle, the conference venue, arranged for security for the Senator; McCormick was kept in a separate room before her presentation, visitors were not allowed to see her, and she was escorted to and from the podium by security, similar to how black students had been escorted to all-white schools years ago.

Despite the protests of a few, the Senator's presentation received positive reviews from the students, many of whom remarked that they didn't see what all the fuss was about. ▼

Aroostook Legislators Meet with NLN

For two hours Saturday, April 3, two Republican members of the Aroostook legislative delegation, Rep. Jim Donnelly (Presque Isle) and Rep. Julie-Marie Robichaud (Caribou) discussed L.D. 246, "An Act to Prevent Discrimination" with 10 members of Northern Lambda Nord. The group sat informally in a circle, drinking coffee and tea and eating the sandwiches provided by the Caribou Motor Inn, and discussed the pressing need for non-discrimination protection for gays and lesbians in Maine. One man accounted the incident of Irving Oil's refusal to give him credit because he was gay. A woman told of a time at a restaurant when she and her female companion were repeatedly passed over to be seated. Job losses and other personal accounts of discrimination were also discussed. The lawmakers expressed their concerns, their willingness to listen, and appeared to be supportive of the legislation.

When the bill came up for a vote, however, both Donnelly and Robichaud failed to support it. ▼

Women Helping Women II

In the last issue of *Communiqué*, a call went out to women to volunteer to receive referrals from the Phonenumber on a Wednesday evening. If a woman who calls the Phonenumber wishes to talk with another women, you would be called and given the caller's number so you can call her back; *your number would never be given out*. At the beginning of each Phonenumber session (Wednesdays, 7pm Maine time/8pm New Brunswick time), the women on the Phonenumber list would be contacted to see if they are available that evening.

So far, four women have volunteered to receive referrals - women from Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield, and Edmundston. We need a larger pool of volunteers from which to draw! If you can help, call Roger at the Phonenumber Wednesday evening. ▼

Notes

📻 **CONCERT** Ann Reed, lesbian folk musician, will be at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland, Saturday, May 15, 8pm; info from 207/247-3461 or 929-3866. 📻 **SPACE AVAILABLE?** Can you offer your home for a Lambda gathering? Space for the monthly meeting, a pot luck, barbeque, party, film, or other event is needed. Call the Phonenumber or speak with a steering committee member today. 📻 **YOUTH FILMS** The National Film Board will soon release a feature-length documentary about growing up lesbain/gay in Canada. Contact Doug Eliuk, NFB, 150 John Street, Toronto, 416/973-3305. 📻

📻 **"OUR PAPER"/"GLT" FOLDS** According to a letter in the April 1993 issue of *Apex*, the *Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine*, formerly *Our Paper*, has ceased publication. Three reasons were given: financial, lack of volunteers, burn-out. *Apex: a point of departure* remains. Subscriptions, \$15-25/year (sliding scale) from Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04112. 📻 **WOMYN'S FESTIVAL** June 10-13, live music, workshops, planned activities, sharing, lakeside on 33 acres. Info: PJ Productions, POB 188, Norway, Maine 04268, 207/743-2787, Carol. 📻 **GAYMEN'S GATHERINGS** Third annual was April 9-11 in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, oceanfront retreat. To receive info on future gatherings, write to Robin Metcalfe, POB 36054, Halifax NS B3J 3S9, 902/425-6967. ▼

Highlights



OF NLN'S APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

Eight members present, all Steering Committee members.

❖ One section of the **library** collection is complete with all fiction in the compter and spine tags on all books. Only 2 people worked the last "first friday" library night; we'll discontinue those nights for now and substitute a May 22 "Library Day" and barbeque. ❖ **Thank yous** to Roger M. for hosting the Easter party and midnight breakfast and to Wayne for the hosting the April business meeting. ❖ The Caribou **Unitarian-Universalist Church** discussion with Senator Dale McCormick re: the gay-lesbian non-discrimination bill was very well attended and well received. A thank you will be written to the Church. ❖ The **building fund** remains the same as in March; the April donations have yet to be included (25% of the money collected at the door at the Easter party) ❖ The **Phonenumber** request for women volunteers has been answered by 4 women; more are needed. ❖ A listing of general NLN **policies and procedures** will be compiled, starting with some of the Phonenumber procedures. ❖ The **legislative tea** with NLN and area legislators was well-attended. Two representatives participated in the discussion re: the non-discrimination bill. ❖ Plans for the **NLN 13th anniversary party** were finalized. ❖ Any NLN members who need financial assistance to attend **Symposium XX** will be helped by our special fund; requests must be received by May 8. The remaining money will be made available to others.

❖ **Activities calendar** 📻 **13th Anniversary Party** - Sat, May 1, 7pm (Maine), Caribou Country Club; 📻 **Monthly meeting** - Sun, May 9, 3pm (Maine), Caribou; 📻 **FILM** - "Querrelle", Fri, May 15, 8pm (Maine), Caribou; 📻 **Library Day** - Sat, May 16, 1pm (Maine) with a bbq; 📻 **Barbeque** - Sat, June 5; 📻 **Monthly meeting** - Sun, June 13, 3pm, (Maine) Presque Isle; 📻 **Fold & Stuff July/Aug newsletter** - Wed, June 23, 7pm (Maine), Caribou; 📻 **First day of summer BBQ & lawn games** - Sat, June 26, 4pm (Maine), New Sweden; 📻 **Picnic** - Sun, July 4; 📻 **Monthly meeting** - Sun, July 11, 3pm (Maine); 📻 **Quoggy Joe Mt. hike/Echo Lake picnic** - Sat, July 24
The meeting adjourned after 2 hour 15 minutes ▼

4th annual Northampton Lesbian Festival

July 23-25, Swift River Inn, Cummington, Massachusetts, featuring Cassleberry-Duprée, Karen Williams, Suede, Lea Delaria, Mrs. Fun, Lesbian Lounge Lizards, Girls in the Nose, Georgia Ragsdale, Jamie Anderson, Erica Wheeler, Auctioneer Susan Morissette, Marla BB, Jaime Morton, Justine & Joyce, Purly Gates, Robin E., and More. Tickets start at \$30 (1-day pass, postmarked by June 25). More info: WOW Productions, 160 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060, 413/586-8251. ▼

Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival

The world's largest international sporting competition - estimated at 15,000 participants - will be held June 18-25, 1994 in New York City, scheduled to coincide with the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, the beginning of the modern gay-lesbian liberation movement. Thirty-one team and individual sports are scheduled. Info: Unity '94, 19 West 21st Street, Suite 1202, NYC 10010, 212/633-9494 ▼

A • I • D • S •

THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

CONSIDERED SAFE:

Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (dry) kissing, Fantasy, Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising), Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE:

Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom, French (wet) kissing, Sucking (but stopping before climax), Watersports (external only), Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE:

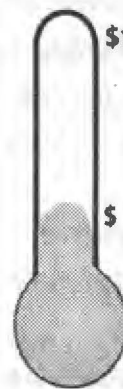
Swallowed semen, Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom, Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts, Sharing IV needles, Fisting or rimming, Sharing enema equipment, douching equipment, or sex toys

Do more
than
belong.

Participate.

Some NEWS & FEATURES in this issue were from: *Telegraph-Journal* (Saint John, NB), *Apex: a point of departure* (Portland, ME), *GO INFO* (Ottawa)

BUILDINGFUND



\$10,000
GOAL

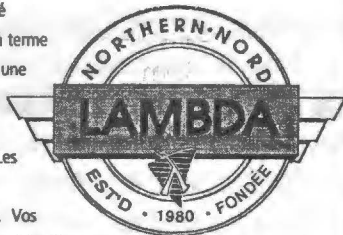
\$ 2540.91
U.S. funds
as of
4/11/92

The NLN Building Fund is designed to raise money for a community center for this region. The center would house the phoneline, library, office, meeting space, and party space. Since NLN is a 501(c)(3) group, all donations are tax-deductible on federal U.S. income tax; merely ask for a receipt. Donations of any amount - U.S. or Canadian funds - are appreciated. ▼

Communiqué

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COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties). **SUBSCRIPTIONS** - \$10 per year. **NLN MEMBERSHIP** - \$15 per year, which includes a subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax-deductible. Advertising rates in **COMMUNIQUÉ** are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.



Gay/Lesbian G • U • I • D • E Lesbienne/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA
GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE 207.498-2088
TDQ/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine)
AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call 207.498-2088 to make contact

ACT UP/BANGOR POB 1554, 04402-1554, 947-3947

AIDS/SIDANew Brunswick 800.561-4009
AIDSLINE/Maine 800.851-AIDS-Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

AM CHOFSI Maine Jewish group, meets monthly; POB 5017, Portland 04101

APEX: A Point of Departure, published monthly by Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04412

ASSOCIATION GAI ET LESBIENNE SANS FRONTIÈRE CP 461, Campbellton E3N 3G1
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 990-EMAN

EDMUNDSTON AREA GAYS & LESBIANS

FOR EQUALITY (EAGLE) POB 611, Edmundston E3V 3L2 506.735-5029

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E3B 5G2, 457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)

FRUITS OF OUR LABORS Monthly events calendar, POB 125, Belfast 04915

GAZETTE For Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada, published 10 times yearly, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1

GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.858-1013

GALES NOR GAYS CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 862-5907/941-2189

GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 780-4085/772-4741

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104

INTEGRITY Episcopal group, St. Matthew's

Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 623-3041/845-2985

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 10818, Portland 04104

MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347

NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 800.339-4042

OUTRIGHT CENTRAL MAINE for age 22 & younger, every Fri, 7:30pm 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St, Auburn; POB 802, Auburn 04212, 800.339-4042

OUTRIGHT TOO Bangor area Gay-Lesbian Bisexual youth group, POB 212, Bangor 04401

PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 773-8500

WOMYN'S GROUP POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156