



COMMUNIQUE

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— AIR FORCE'S "UNITED WAY" DRIVE INCLUDES LAMBDA —

The annual fundraising drive at Loring Air Force Base, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which permits donations to local and national organizations through payroll deductions, will include Northern Lambda Nord among their list of qualifying recipients of such donations.

Since 1986, Lambda has been receiving payroll-deducted donations through the CFC's policy of permitting "write-ins", whereby any Loring employee, civilian or military, may write in the name of any qualifying organization (one which is U.S. government "501-c-3" status, a non-profit group); Lambda has qualified under this rule. But beginning with this fall's campaign, only those groups which are included in the Loring/CFC-published list of qualifying organizations will be eligible to receive payroll-deducted donations, and NLN has never been included on this list. Until this year.

After ascertaining the requirements for inclusion on the CFC list, NLN's treasurer submitted the required documentation. A meeting was held between a Lambda representative, other local CFC recipient organizations, and Major Diane Jinwright, Loring AFB Comptroller and Base Coordinator for the 1989 CFC campaign at Loring. Since Lambda had been a recipient of donations in the past, and since NLN's papers fulfilled all the government requirements, Northern Lambda Nord's name will now appear under the category "Non-affiliated Volunteer Organizations". ALL LORING PERSONNEL, both military stationed at the base as well as civilian employees, are urged to make a tax-deductable payroll deduction to Lambda by placing the number under which Lambda is listed in the CFC booklet in the appropriate box on your donation form. All CFC donation forms are confidential; you may place yours in an envelope before presenting it to the squadron representative if you wish. Only the United Way office staff in Presque Isle, who act as the processing center for the Loring CFC, will see your deduction form, one of thousands that they will be handling.

— ANTI-GAY U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW HEADED FOR REPEAL —

A 1950s McCarthy-era law which bars gaymen and lesbians from entering the U.S. under the category of "sexual deviants" may soon be repealed. The House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee voted 21 to 14 to move the bill, H.R. 4427, to the floor of the House. This bill, which repeals the provisions in the Immigration Laws which can legally keep New Brunswick lesbians and gaymen from even visiting Maine, is sponsored by Representative Barney Frank, Democrat from Massachusetts, and one of two openly gay members of the U.S. Congress. Representative Dannemeyer, Republican from California and "avowed, practicing" opponent of gay-supportive legislation, had introduced a hostile amendment to the bill; this amendment was defeated by the Judiciary Committee. According to civil rights activists, this vote is a "major breakthrough and possibly the first repeal of homophobic legislation ever in the U.S. Congress.

2—CANADA'S UNITED CHURCH APPROVES ORDINATION OF GAY PEOPLE

In an historic move August 24, delegates to the United Church of Canada's governing body, the General Council, voted to allow lesbians and gaymen into the clergy. This is a major victory for gay people's bid to achieve full acceptance by this country's largest Protestant institution. Formed in 1925 as a merger between the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational churches, the United Church boasts a membership of over 860,000.

The resolution, approved by 58% of the 365 delegates, stated: *All persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, who profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, are welcome to be or to become full members of the United Church. All members of the church are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry.*

From the moment the resolution was accepted, bitter debate was heard from coast to coast, and New Brunswick was no exception. In Saint John, the presbytery of that area approved a resolution against ordination of lesbians and gaymen. But in Sussex Corner, the Reverend Darlene Young came out to her congregation. "Reality is hitting home", she noted in a CBC-Radio interview. "The risk of hurting myself or others is worth it, to get the topic in the open." Reaction in that community was mixed: some felt that she should have "kept it a secret", and that she was "not a good example". But other people noted that she is a "brilliant preacher with a lot of potential"; "It doesn't change my friendship" with her.

Most major denominations in the United States have not reached the point of ordination of gay people. Only the Unitarian-Universalist Church and the United Church of Christ accept lesbians and gaymen as ministers.

—POURSUITE CONTRE LES DOUANES (Le magazine RG, Montréal)

L'association des libertés civiles de la Colombie-Britannique entame une poursuite contre les douanes canadiennes à la suite de la saisie, l'an dernier, de 150 exemplaires du magazine gai américain, The Advocate, commandés par la librairie gaie, Little Sisters de Vancouver. L'objectif de la poursuite semble être de forcer les douanes à préciser ce qu'elles entendent par 'obscénité'.

—NOVA SCOTIA PWA COALITION PICKETS MUNICIPALITIES MEETING

Members of the Nova Scotia Persons With AIDS (PWA) Coalition conducted an informational picket September 14th during the annual meeting of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, attended by delegates from 66 municipalities and held in Halifax. The action was in response to a resolution drafted by the Municipality of Barrington and supported by the South Western region which urged the provincial government to ban AIDS "carriers" from teaching positions. The

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PWA
COALITION

Resolutions Committee rejected the Barrington proposal and recommended a substitute resolution, pledging cooperation with the Nova Scotia Task Force on AIDS in the development of "an appropriate and fair policy". Both resolutions were debated at the annual meeting. (Results of the debate and final action are not known at the time of publication of this article.)

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities turned down the PWA Coalition's request to participate in the discussion of the AIDS policy resolutions. "We're very concerned with the broader implications of this resolution," noted Peter Wood, spokesperson for the PWA Coalition. "In order to remove someone from a classroom for being HIV-positive, they would have to introduce a programme of mandatory

testing. We're entirely opposed to that." If they're asking this year for teachers to be removed for being HIV-positive, next year will they be removing students? How long before they'd be asking for people to be removed from any job for being HIV-positive - or to be quarantined?

NOVA SCOTIA PWA COALITION, POB 1374, PS North, Halifax B3K 5H7

INTERVIEW.....

Gilles Ringuette

Communiqué spoke recently with GILLES RINGUETTE, owner of this region's first and only lesbian-gay bar, CLUB EQUALITY, located in Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, New Brunswick, not far from Saint-Léonard/Van Buren. The club opened its doors at the end of July, and celebrated with a grand opening on Labour Day weekend. Gilles was present at Northern Lambda Nord's first meeting in January 1980 and has been a member ever since.

COMMUNIQUE: Did you grow up in Sainte-Anne, Gilles?

GILLES: Yes. I was raised there, the twelfth of fourteen kids.

COMMUNIQUE: Fourteen?

GILLES: Yes. And two of us are gay.

COMMUNIQUE: Did you spend most of your life in Sainte-Anne?

GILLES: Yes, except for twice when I went to Montréal to study; once when I was 13 I went to take my hairdressing course, and then when I was 16 I went back to take a refresher course, and I was there until the age of 18; then I came back to Sainte-Anne after. Then I opened the shop.

COMMUNIQUE: So you've been cutting hair, you've been a coiffure since you were 13?

GILLES: Yes. Almost 20 years.

COMMUNIQUE: And you've had your own shop since you were 18, or did you start with someone else?

GILLES: No. I've had my own shop all this time.

COMMUNIQUE: You've won some hairdressing awards, haven't you?

GILLES: Oh, yes. Mostly in the year '77 through '80. I won three years in a row for provincial and after, I went to inter-provincial. After you've won three years in New Brunswick, then you can subscribe for Canada, which I came out second.

COMMUNIQUE: That's pretty impressive! What's your shop called, in Sainte-Anne?

GILLES: Salon Gilles.

COMMUNIQUE: So you're cutting hair full time. And now you've opened up a club, Club Equality. What made you decide to open the club, Gilles?

GILLES: Well, I've been thinking about that for about five years. What made me do it? People asking for a club. Before, I didn't think it was the right time to do it. But when they started to talk a lot about gay people on radio and TV, so the people got used to it, knowing about gay people, so I said to myself, well, this is time. So I decided to do it.

What made me do it?

People asking for a club.

COMMUNIQUE: Did you have any problems being in Sainte-Anne? It's a small town, and I've heard things like, "Oh, I'm not going to go there; it's a real redneck town."

GILLES: Sainte-Anne, if you go back 15 years ago, was a pretty rough town. But times have changed. People have learned to accept more of the life the way it is today, so it's not the same.

COMMUNIQUE: How many people live in Sainte-Anne?

GILLES: About 3,500.

COMMUNIQUE: That's pretty small.

GILLES: It's small to have a gay club in.

COMMUNIQUE: So you felt the time was right and there were enough people around

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to do it.

GILLES: Yes.

COMMUNIQUÉ: From how far a distance are people coming to the club?

GILLES: Let's see; about 40 miles around. People come from Ville Dégelis in Québec, some from Perth-Andover, from Presque Isle-Caribou.

COMMUNIQUÉ: How did you find this location, the bar in the center of Sainte-Anne?

GILLES: Well, I heard about the place; it had closed down about three months ago. So I went to see the owner, and check out how much he would charge me to rent the place. So I said, I do it now while I have the chance to do it. Everything is already set up for a place. So I started working the paper for the license. It took me a very short time to have the license. It took me a month and one week, exactly. It usually takes about three months to have a license.

COMMUNIQUÉ: How did you get your liquor license so fast? Is it because you're from Sainte-Anne and you know people? I assume the people knew you were opening up a gay bar.

GILLES: Oh, yes. They knew. But I did have some help from Pierrette Ringuette-Maltais. She's the Deputy. She did help a lot; she signed on every paper to send to those boards.

COMMUNIQUÉ: You said she's a Deputy?

GILLES: Yeah. A Liberal.

COMMUNIQUÉ: Oh, she's in the Legislature in Fredericton, the representative from Madawaska County?

GILLES: Yes. She's supportive of the bar.

COMMUNIQUÉ: Her name's RINGUETTE-Maltais. Is she a relative of yours?

GILLES: Yes, she's related to me. And a good customer. She's the woman that cut the ribbon at the grand opening.

COMMUNIQUÉ: Have you had any problems with the people in the area?

GILLES: Absolutely not. Nothing.

COMMUNIQUÉ: Club Equality is a membership club. How much does it cost to join?

GILLES: It costs \$40 U.S. or \$50 Canadian for a year.

COMMUNIQUÉ: And what does my 40 or 50 dollars get me?

GILLES: Every time you come in the club you don't pay at the door, first of all. Every year there's going to be a party for members only. Once a year. Any time there's a show, or something that comes from outside the province for entertainment, you don't have to pay to get in. Oh, and I should mention that you can arrange to pay your membership in installments.

You know, you can't please everybody.

COMMUNIQUÉ: What kind of input do members have? I've talked with people, and some complain about this and some complain about that and they say, well, he should do this, and wouldn't it be nice if he did that. Are you planning to have any time set aside, let's say some time once a year, when members get together and have a chance to say directly to you, "We don't like the way you're doing this, or we like the way you're doing this"? Or a suggestion box?

GILLES: The suggestion box, that's in the works right now. We're talking about these things. You know, you can't please everybody. Somebody complained about the music being too new, and somebody complained about the music being too old! Where do I go from here? I have to put some music for both to make sure the people are satisfied.

COMMUNIQUÉ: So if people let you know what they like and what they don't like...

GILLES: I'm going to try to please them as much as possible.

COMMUNIQUÉ: Let's talk about admission. How many times can a non-member come in with a member, or come in by themselves?

GILLES: Local people who are not members, these are the ones who have to be signed by members. People from Québec, from past Grand Falls, or from the U.S. is considered as visitor. Those people don't need somebody to sign for them. They can come in any time they want on a Visitor's Pass. If you want to support the club, you'll become a member. It doesn't matter where you're from. If you plan to come to the club two times a month, or even more, the membership will save you money,

too.

COMMUNIQUE: How much does it cost for admission for a non-member?

GILLES: Two dollars.

COMMUNIQUE: Now let me ask you about American money. How do you handle the exchange?

GILLES: Let's say if somebody gives me \$10 American at the door to get in for the \$2 admission, I'll give them back \$10 Canadian. But if they give me \$2 American, I won't give them any change. I don't want to have the hassle with coins.

COMMUNIQUE: So will you exchange American money?

GILLES: At the door. Somebody can exchange their money at the door, but not at the bar; it's too much trouble at the bar. I'll exchange money, from \$5 up. I'd encourage people to go to the bank before they come across and buy some Canadian money.

COMMUNIQUE: How is the crowd divided, in terms of men and women?

GILLES: I think it's half and half. I think it's great that there are about equal numbers of both women and men in the club.

COMMUNIQUE: And what's the ratio between Canadians and Americans?

GILLES: There are as much as 35% Americans. That's a lot.

COMMUNIQUE: I have two things written here on my notes, "future" and "goals". You've been open for just two months; what do you see for the future?

GILLES: I see a lot, but I don't know what the club is going to turn out to be. It all depends upon the kind of support and interest I get from the people around here.

COMMUNIQUE: Has it lived up to your expectations so far, at this early date, as far as numbers of people?

GILLES: Saturday is pretty fair, but I think Fridays and Sundays should be better. I hope it gets better. About 50% of the people that I know in the area never came in, are not supporting it.

COMMUNIQUE: Why do you think you haven't seen them yet? Are they afraid of going?

GILLES: Maybe. 'Cause I've talked with people who say, "I'll go, I'll go", but you never see them.

COMMUNIQUE: Do you think people are sitting back and waiting for the right time? They're waiting till you've been there awhile and figure, "Now it's safe to go"? Because with Lambda's experience, Lambda's been around for over eight years, and people sat around for years and years, waiting to see what would happen, because they were afraid to join, or even to go to a party or meeting. But now you see some of them, and there are plenty of new faces all the time, but there are those same people from eight years ago who will always be afraid, and you'll never see them. And maybe it's the same way with the bar. People are going to wait. And some will never be ready.

GILLES: Well, we were talking about putting a sign above the entrance, "Club Equality", and I mentioned it to a few people, and they freaked out! "Oh, no! Don't do that! Don't do that!" That confirms that they're going into a gay bar!

If the club works and
makes enough money,
I might buy the
whole building.

COMMUNIQUE: It seems that the bar has a lot of the same kinds of problems as the organization in terms of people's lack of self-worth, their own homophobia towards themselves, that they're not comfortable with being gay.

GILLES: It's going to take time.

But more people are going to have to begin to support the club. If the club works and makes enough money, I might buy the whole building; they have no business upstairs. So if we're still in business next year and the owner doesn't want to sell, I'm hoping to rent the whole place with the option to buy.

COMMUNIQUE: Let me ask about security. For some people, that's an issue.

GILLES: Well, there's private parking around the back, and the entrance to the club is at the back. I have somebody outside that watches all the time, and keeps me posted all the time. If she doesn't recognize someone or their car,

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she'll let me know and I'll keep an eye on things. We haven't had any problems and we plan to keep it that way. And I have the RCMP drive through the parking lot about three times a night. So people that see the cops come in, they know that we're protected by cops, so that keeps the troublemakers away.

COMMUNIQUE: Have you had any problems from the club across the street? I've noticed it's the only other club in Sainte-Anne.

GILLES: No, not at all. My sister owns that club. And any time anyone says something about our club, she defends us. She says something to hold them back.

COMMUNIQUE: So really, being in a small town is not necessarily a disadvantage, because everybody knows everybody. You'll recognize anyone who gives you trouble.

GILLES: Exactly. If my sister overhears anyone saying something about doing something to our club, they know that my sister could hold them from coming back to her club.

COMMUNIQUE: Is there anything else you'd like to add, Gilles?

GILLES: Now that there's a place that we can go, a place to dance and meet other people, that's a safe and comfortable place to be, I hope people will support it. Because if they don't support it, they'll lose it. I've put a lot of myself in jeopardy for everybody around, to open this club. I put my job, I put everything. It was a big issue with my father, doing

this, that my business, Salon Gilles, that I'd lose clientele. I can only pay to keep this going for so long. I can't afford to do this by myself, and so I need support. If this club has to close, if it doesn't work, that means it will be a long time 'til someone does this again.

COMMUNIQUE: Has this affected your clientele? Have you lost business?

GILLES: Not that much, not that much, because I'm pretty open with my customers, open about my homosexuality. People talk to me about it, I will answer them. I don't hide anything from nobody. Not even the priest. I invited my priest to the grand opening of the club. I sent him an invitation the week before, then called him up the day before and asked him if he was going to come to the grand opening in the afternoon. So he says, "No, I think it's not my place to be there." I says, "Why not?" He said, "My, uh, our religion doesn't permit that kind of activity." And I said, "Well, I'm 32 years old, and I've been gay all my life, and I've never been punished!" So I said to him, "That means that you don't support gay people at all." He says, "No." I said, "Well, I think I'm in the wrong religion!" I know that now when I see him, he's not going to be able to look at me.
COMMUNIQUE: I want to thank you, Gilles, for taking time out for this interview, wish you the best of luck, and I'll see you at Club Equality!

CLUB EQUALITY - rue Principale, Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, Nouveau-Brunswick, au-dessous du Club Capricorn, entrée arrière; ouvert vendredi-samedi-dimanche, 21h00 à 2h00 (heure N-B)

CLUB EQUALITY - Main Street, Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, New Brunswick, downstairs from the Club Capricorn, rear entrance; open Friday-Saturday-Sunday, 9pm-2am (N-B time)

— COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE! —

To mark the first anniversary of the historic March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, October 11th 1988 is being observed as "National Coming Out Day". The 1987 March was the largest civil rights demonstration in U.S. history, with more than 600,000 people

Après le succès de la marche sur Washington d'octobre 1987, le National Gay Rights Advocates lance cette année le National Coming Out Day, le 11 octobre 1988. Cette journée se veut une incitation à aller de l'avant dans notre affirmation individuelle comme gais.

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demonstrating through the streets of the nation's capital. To extend the enthusiasm of this event to every corner of the country, a campaign has been organized by the National Gay Rights

C'est ainsi que la publicité encouragera les gais à franchir une étape de plus dans leur visibilisation auprès des leurs, amis, parents, et cetera.

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Advocates of San Francisco and West Hollywood, California, to involve individuals who are urged to take a personal step in their own lives to "help fulfill the dream that began in Washington". The greatest effect on attitudes towards gay people is found when people realize that someone they know - whether a co-worker, friend, or family member - is gay. A number of ideas for Coming Out Day have been presented in pamphlet form, provided by the organizers. Some of these, which you can plan to do on Coming Out Day or any day of the year, include:

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

- ° Call him a him and her a her when talking about your personal life to friends and co-workers
- ° write a check to a gay-lesbian group using its full name instead of its initials
- ° tell your grandparents you are gay
- ° take a lover/partner home for the holidays
- ° attend a gay-lesbian group's meeting
- ° stop hiding snapshots or other 'evidence' of

your sexuality at home or office

- ° Consider leaving your copy of 'The Joy of Lesbian Sex' or 'The Joy of Gay Sex' in your bookcase when your parents come for a visit
- ° Send flowers to someone special and don't use initials on the card
- ° Confront your co-workers about a bigoted joke or comment
- ° Be affectionate with your lover or partner upon arrival/departure at the airport
- ° Invite your straight and gay friends to the same party
- ° Speak the truth when asked, 'So are you engaged yet?'
- ° Put your lover's photo on your desk at work
- ° Wear an openly gay symbol or button for an entire week

The coming out process for each of us is a never-ending one. It lasts all our lives, but the more often we take the chance, the easier it becomes and the better we feel. Take your next step on National Coming Out Day, Tuesday, October 11.

SIDAIDS

NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK • NEW BRUNSWICK

AIDS Safer Sex Guide

Unsafe

- * Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom
- * Inserting hands (fisting) or tongue (rimming) into the anus
- * Avoid the exchange of body fluids
- * Sharing sex toys or needles
- * Semen or urine in the mouth
- * Blood contact
- * Risk increases with multiple partners.

Safe

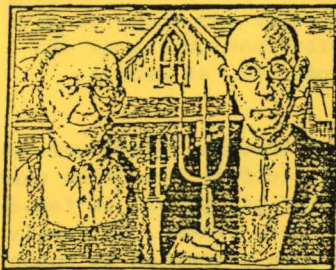
- * Massage, Hugging
- * Masturbation - Solitary and mutual
- * Body to body rubbing
- * Unshared sex toys
- * Reading, viewing and talking erotica
- * Abstinence
- * Dry kissing

Possibly Safe

- * Deep wet kissing
- * Anal, oral or vaginal sex using a latex condom properly
- * Oral vaginal contact - except during menstruation

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AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets
weekly in Madawaska; contact Northern Lambda Nord
for information

BANGOR AREA GAY-LESBIAN-STRAIGHT COALITION
(BAGLSC - "Bagels") c/o 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer
04412

CLUB EQUALITY private membership club/membre
privé, located downstairs from the Capricorn Club/au-
dessous du Club Capricorn, rear entrance/entrée arrière,
Main Street/rue Principale, Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska,
New/Nouveau Brunswick; open Friday-Saturday-
Sunday, 9pm-2am (N-B time)/ouvert vendredi-samedi-
dimanche, 21h00-2h00 (heure N-B)

DOWNEAST LESBIAN GAY ORGANIZATION (DELGO)
c/o Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street, Bangor 04401,
207/942-6503

DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland
04104

FREDERICTON LESBIANS AND GAYS (FLAG) POB
1556, Station A, Fredericton E3B 5G2, 506/457-2156

**GAIS ET LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS AND
LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM)** CP/POB 7102,
Riverview E1B 1V0, 506/858-1013

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern
Maine, 92 Bedford Street, Portland 04102, 207/780-4085
GROUPE GAIÉ DE L'UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL (GGUL) CP
2500, Pavillon Lermieux, Cite Universitaire, Sainte-Foy,
Quebec G1K 7P4, 418/648-2751

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

**LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS**
POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04101

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 1792,
Portland 04104, 207/780-4085 (leave message)

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS POB 125, Belfast 04915

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB
232, Hallowell 04347

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BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A,
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**OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in
Maine** published monthly, \$12 for one-year subscription,
POB 10744, Portland 04104

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth
POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04101

WILDE-STEIN CLUB Memorial Union, University of
Maine, Orono 04469

WOMLAND TRUST Women Owning Maine Land Trust,
POB 55, Troy 04987

AIDS information SIDA

MAINE AIDS-line 1-800/851-AIDS (-2437) (Portland -
775-1267), Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Monday &

Wednesday 6-9pm, Saturday 10am-1pm

NEW BRUNSWICK AIDS-line/La ligne SIDA

NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK 1-800/561-4009 (Fredericton -
459-7518)

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sont acceptés au par. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté
financière, des paiements à terme peuvent être
organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif;
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seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le **COMMUNIQUE**
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