



# TRENZ<sup>©</sup>



**WEB BULLETIN DEDICATED TO  
THE ADVANCEMENT AND THE  
DEMYSTIFICATION OF THE  
TRANSEXUAL EXPERIENCE**

## The Persons case

The importance of the persons case cannot be underestimated.

Five women (known as The famous five) appealed the supreme court decision to the judicial Committee of the Privy council in England, at the time, the highest court of appeal for Canada. On October 18, 1929, after a long battle, the British Privy Council ruled that «Yes, women are persons».

From that point, the Canadian constitution would consider women as «persons», entitled to the same rights and liberties as men.

This case was not only a major victory for women's rights but it also opened the way for women to

participate in the federal government.

In 2009, eighty years after that historical decision, the trans community is still looking for the recognition of gender identity and expression, in a modern society in which gender is based on two predefined models.

After eight decades, the member of the trans community are still fighting to get access to appropriate health care services and rights to protect them from harassment and discrimination. It's about time that trans persons were considered «persons» under the law.

Although many people believe that a debate on gender identity and expression is not necessary, that these realities do not warrant consideration, or that access to care for the trans community is not a priority in itself, I believe that they are wrong - everyone has a right to respect and dignity.

Furthermore, the recognition of gender identity and expression will give trans persons the rights, respect, and pride they so greatly deserve.

Maxime Le May

## News from here and abroad



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## Siksay's Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code

On May 15, a private members' bill titled *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (Gender Identity and Gender Expression)* was introduced in the House of Commons. Bill C-389, presented by Bill Siksay, MP for Burnaby-Douglas and the NDP's Critic for LGBT Human Rights, is a merger of two bills presented in earlier sessions of Parliament. It will add gender identity and expression to the Canadian Human Rights Act and to the Criminal Code provisions on hate crimes.

This will provide Canadians redress if they are discriminated against on the basis of their gender identity or expression (e.g. if they are transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, or not conforming to traditional gender roles) and will provide for more severe sentences for crimes targeting people on the basis of their gender identity or expression, similar to the protections that currently exist on the basis of race, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion.

## New resource in the Eastern Townships !

Projet Caméléon has begun operations in Sherbrooke. The goal of this project is to advocate transgender education.

A result of an initiative from I.R.I.S. Sherbrooke, the project will offer different services for transsexuals, their friends and family, and for social workers.

Furthermore, Project Caméléon distribute a Trans 101 guide that will be made available to people working with the trans community or anyone wanting to learn more on the subject.

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## SERVICES OFFERED

1. INFORMATION ON GENDER IDENTITY AND TRANSITION
2. CONSULTING
3. INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING
4. PEER SUPPORT
5. REFERENCES
6. WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SOCIAL WORKERS

## News from here and abroad

### Manitoba rejects provincial funding for trans surgeries

Manitoba's NDP government refused a proposal to fully fund sex reassignment surgeries for trans people.

The policy would have brought the province in line with British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec by covering the costs of hormone therapy as well as procedures like chest reconstruction and clitoral release.

The proposal, brought forward by the province's Ministry of Healthy Living, was created after consultation with queer community members. It was approved by top bureaucrats but rejected by NDP cabinet ministers at a Treasury Board meeting earlier this year.

Kerri Irvin-Ross, Manitoba's Minister of Healthy Living, refused to tell Xtra.ca why her department's plan isn't going ahead. "What happens in the Treasury Board is confidential," she said. But she added, "There's an economic downturn happening and that's slowing things down."

Manitoba posted one of the only balanced budgets in Canada this year, increasing core spending by 4.4 percent. The government predicts a \$48 million surplus by this time next year.

Currently, trans people in Manitoba who want to undergo a sex change have to be assessed by doctors at the Centre for Mental Health and Addictions (CAMH) in Toronto. If doctors at CAMH give the go-ahead, patients then have to take hormone treatments for up to two years. The full cost of hormone blockers and replacements — up to \$400 per month — isn't covered by the government.

Most surgeries leading to a sex change aren't covered, either. Manitoba pays for penis removal (penectomies) and breast removal (mastectomies) but after that, trans people are pretty much expected to pay for the rest themselves. Cosmetic procedures like chest reconstruction and clitoral release aren't insured.

(Source : [www.xtra.ca](http://www.xtra.ca))

### Trans activists fight cuts to GRS funding

Across Alberta last week, trans activists and allies continued to pressure the Alberta government to relist gender reassignment surgery (GRS), after the province announced it was cutting the program to save money.

The actions started at the Alberta legislature during question period on Apr 14, where over 30 activists and allies were on hand to support the opposition's questioning of Health Minister Ron Liepert.

Earlier in question period, Liberal MLA Laurie Blakeman asked Minister Liepert to "explain the medical reasons why gender reassignment surgery was delisted, and why there was a complete lack of consultation with any medical professionals with expertise in this field."

"This was not based on medical decisions," Liepert responded. "This was based on a number of programs." His response was met with vocal outcry and interruptions from other MLAs.

According to the government, cutting gender reassignment surgery will save the province \$700,000 a year — the equivalent of around 16 surgeries a year. Activists say that amounts to a savings of only 19 cents per Albertan.

The next day, activists held a simultaneous mass human rights filing in both Edmonton and Calgary. Twenty-five trans folk individually filed human rights complaints against the Alberta government. "It appears as though we were singled out," says activist Mercedes Allen, who was among those that filed a complaint. Allen is four years into her gender reassignment process. "GRS is a necessity, and the trans community was not even consulted.

The delisting of GRS came a week after the Alberta government announced that they will add sexual orientation to the province's human rights act, 10 years after the Supreme Court ruled that they must do so. Trans activists hoped that by the time Alberta formally recognized sexual orientation in the act that gender identity would also be included, but the government's announcement appears to have shot down that hope. Activists argue this puts members of the trans community at greater vulnerability for issues such as housing, employment and safety.

(Source : [www.xtra.ca](http://www.xtra.ca))

## News from here and abroad

### **Transsexuality will no longer be considered a «mental disease » in France.**

French Minister for Health and Sports Roselyne Bachelot wanted to send a strong message the day before the IDAHO (International Day Against HOMophobia) on May 17th: her Ministry confirmed that the HAS (Haute Autorité de Santé, the French Health Ministry's advisory organization) had decided to withdraw transsexuality from the classification of mental diseases.

After consideration of the case by the HAS, a decree should be created that officially withdraws transsexuality from the list of long-term psychiatrist ailments. At the Ministry, there is now talk of the creation of a new category « dedicated » to transsexuality, stating that it should « remain a medical problem, as the measure does not mean the abandonment of access to needed medical attention. The Ministry mentions it wanted to send a « strong signal » by creating this « first step », and reminds us that Roselyne Bachelot had already taken a clear stand on this issue.

Trans community support associations welcomed this measure, revealed by the French newspaper « Libération », and now wish that the WHO (World Health Organization) would encourage others to follow France's decision.

In a press release, the « Collectif Contre l'Homophobie » ( Co-operative Against Homophobia) rejoiced this « historic decision » and « decisive step » for transgendered people, who « will no longer be stigmatised and considered as having a mental disorder by France ». « It is now time to move from plans to concrete actions, by fighting against the violence and discrimination that hang over trans people ». Homosexualité et Socialisme (HES, Homosexuality and Socialism) adds that when moving forward to « concrete actions », it is important to stress the need to relax the rules for a legal sex change or the access to parenthood for transgendered people.

Obtaining a new civil status must be possible « without imposing either sterilization or compulsory sex reassignment surgery that represent a real invasion of the intimacy of their body », adds the Inter-GLBT.

The fight against transphobia has been chosen as the main theme of this year's IDAHO, and on this occasion, a group of politicians, artists and members of the medical community published a column in the newspaper « Le Monde » on May 17th-18th .

The authors of the article deplore the assassination of transsexual people, « victims of discrimination and other crimes motivated by hatred and prejudice, and asks the WHO, the United Nations and governments to take measures against transphobia.

(Source : [www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com))

## TR@NZ

Bi-monthly information bulletin founded in 2009.

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## News from here and abroad

### Trans Activists Protest APA Conference

[Reform GID Now](#) is demanding that the APA revise its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) to more accurately reflect gender identity and expression. "This work has far-reaching implications not only for the health and well-being of transgender people but for the civil rights of the transgender community and of all people," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese.

Specifically, Reform GID Now is calling for the APA workgroup on sexual and gender identity disorders to represent more diverse views (including those from behavioral science and bioethics). As well, the group wants the APA to state that diagnosing normal variants of human gender identity and expression as psychiatric disorders "encourages an adversarial relationship between psychiatry and sexual and gender minorities."

The professional association is currently reviewing its DSM. The annual conference, which the APA estimates will draw 20,000 attendees, has scheduled a panel session entitled "In or Out? : A Discussion About Gender Identity Diagnoses and the DSM."

Reform GID Now advocate Dr. Kelley Winters said in a statement, "difference is not a disease, nonconformity is not pathology, and uniqueness is not an illness."

(Source : [www.gidreformnow.com](http://www.gidreformnow.com))

### Controversial Trans Pioneer Prince Dies at 96

Virginia Prince, a pioneer of the cross-dressing community and longtime activist for transgender rights, died on Saturday, May 2. She was 96 years old.

Prince's philosophies attracted fierce criticism, especially from transgender people. She was staunchly against sex-reassignment surgery, writing in 1978 that she believed it was "perfectly possible to be a woman without having sex surgery." She is widely believed to have coined the term "transgender" around 1970, but as a description exclusively for heterosexual people who did not wish to have reassignment surgery.

Despite Prince's controversial views, Milton Diamond, a professor at the University of Hawaii's Pacific Center for Sex and Society, says she will be remembered for defying convention by being public in the 1950s, a time when there was little sympathy for trans people. "Her contribution to the self-respect of heterosexual transvestites and the creation of a cross-dressing community is undeniable."

(Source : [www.advocate.com](http://www.advocate.com))



### Community calendar.

Please send us information on your events or activities so that we can make it available to everyone on our web site.

Send a brief description of your happening to our editor's email : [maxime.lemay1@mac.com](mailto:maxime.lemay1@mac.com)



## News from here and abroad

### India's transgender talk show host

A controversial new talk show has hit TV screens in southern India. The programme, "Ipadikku Rose", is not only unusual in its subject matter but its new host has certainly broken from the ranks.

The programme is hosted by Rose, who used to be a boy called Ramesh. She is India's first transgender person to host their own talk show on TV.

"The early response to the show has been good," said Rose.

She studied for a master's degree in biomedical engineering in the US and worked as a web site designer before she returned home to Madras (Chennai).

Some of her family are still not willing to accept her sexuality. "Not all of them have accepted me with open arms," she said.

### Tradition versus perception.

Transsexuals are known as or "hijras" in India.

Traditionally they have been surrounded by superstition and myth, but modern society has been less tolerant of them.

Many are shunned by their families, find it hard to obtain conventional jobs and turn instead to begging and prostitution for a living.

Even though Rose is set for TV stardom, her life has been difficult since she has come out.

"I have been publicly ridiculed, called names and looked down upon. "There has also been physical abuse," she said.

However, she is optimistic that her show will change society's attitude towards transgender people and put them in a more positive light.



(Source : [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk))

### Chastity Bono announces sex change

Chastity Bono is having a sex change to become a man. A spokesman for Bono, born a girl to Sonny and Cher, says he "has made the courageous decision to honor his true identity" and began the sex-change process earlier this year. Publicist Howard Bragman said Bono is proud of his decision and hopes "that his choice to transition will open the hearts and minds of the public regarding this issue."

The 40-year-old writer, activist and reality-TV star came out as gay 20 years ago, Bragman said.

In the book "Family Outing: A Guide to the Coming-Out Process for Gays, Lesbians, & Their Families," Bono describes the realization of being "somehow different — specifically, different from who my mom expected me to be."



Chaz Bono

Bono's second book, "The End of Innocence: A Memoir," details how relationships with Joan, a lover, and Sonny and Cher changed after coming out.

In 1995, Bono posed for the cover of the gay magazine *The Advocate* and began working for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Cher is very supportive and has known about Chastity wanting to do this for a very long time. "This will be a long process but it's something Chastity has wanted to do for many years."

(Source : Associated Press)

## Sixth edition of the Montreal Trans Pride day

**Luc Alexandre Perron**



Participants of the sixth edition of the Montreal Trans Pride day noticed that the organizers had worked a long time to plan the event that was held at l'UQAM on May 2nd, 2009. The exceptional quality of the lecturers is worth mentioning. The dynamic among the participants was a reminiscent of the gay movement from the 1980's.

First, Nora Butler Burke and Maxime LeMay presented a synopsis of the year's events. Healthcare access (a provincial jurisdiction in Canada), vary from one province to another. Access to healthcare programs in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec was modified within the last few months. Therefore, it's important that the community closely follow current events for information regarding new developments.

With regards to the protection of the transsexual and transgender human rights, the NPD will soon introduce Bill C-389 to the Canadian Parliament, in order to include sexual identity and expression into the Canadian Human Rights Act. We await the official reaction of the conservative government and the House of Commons.

Next, Dr. Gail Knudson, CPATH president (Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health) and Dr. Trevor Corneil discussed recent improvements in healthcare access for transsexuals in Canada. CPATH gathers together health professionals and community advocates to bring about changes to healthcare access for the transsexual community.

During the afternoon, Dr. Pierre Brassard and Dr. Éric Bensimon, both plastic surgery specialists, discussed the numerous surgical procedures available to both male and female transsexuals. Surgical techniques, possible complications, and expected results were explained, with the help of slide shows

Then, Viviane Namaste led a quiz to test the knowledge of participants of the history of the transsexual culture. The game was a great success. The number and the diversity of songs with titles and subjects related to gender identity and roles in society were pretty impressive.

Afterward, Françoise Susset discussed the delicate subject of interiorized transphobia. It can be recognized as an individuals attempt to dissociate themselves from the transsexual community. For example, an individual may make comments that they don't belong in the group or that they aren't like those people. The common result is a feeling of isolation, loneliness, and depression. It is important to face the fears and prejudices that are promoted by society and then interterrorized by transsexuals.

At the end of the day, Danielle Chénier, ATQ's president and Roger Bower shared their stories about their choice not to have the final surgery. It then opened a debate on the necessity to have or not this kind of surgical procedure. The discussion was very lively.

The day ended with a great concert, gala style, at the Café Cléopâtre on St-Laurent Boulevard.

The success of the event, due to the hard work of the organising committee is worth highlighting. A special thanks to : Danielle, interim president of the ATQ, and Marie-Ève, it's secretary-treasurer ; Marie-Marcelle, for the helpline, and for the gala reception; Catherine for the web and graphic design and to Pascale, another ATQ administrator.

Preparations for Pride day 2010 have already begun. Get involved!

## Project trans archives

**Danielle Chénier**

Since the beginning of time, the human race has left traces of the past in order to continue to evolve, through memories of both good and bad experiences.

This archival information, whether it be through written works or shared folklore, are a result of these experiences and evolution.

Documentation in the transexual community is relatively new, and is being created from the exchange of personal experience.

There are several different types of archives. Our transexual documentation archives are considered to be part of a private archive. Therefore, these archives can be given, bequeathed, or entrusted in deposit to a public archive, and their use can be restricted according to particular rules created by their owner.

These archives may be historical in nature, they may be about current affairs, and be of different formats including paper, audio files, video files such as news reports, television series, films, music, news articles, books etc.

The archives will be, for the most part, available through the internet from the website of the ATQ, while others will be made available for consultation by request.

If you would like to consult any of the available documentation, or would like to contribute material to the archives, please contact Danielle Chénier at the following email address : [atq@atq1980.org](mailto:atq@atq1980.org)

As well, we are currently seeking volunteers to convert paper documents to an internet ready format (scanning documents, creating text files etc...), as well as personnel to translate documentation so that it is available in both French and English.

## First transgender case in Québec ?

**Patrick Gilbert**

James Barry (1792-1795 – 25 July 1865), was a military surgeon in the British Army. By the end of his career, he had risen to the rank of Inspector General in charge of military hospitals.

Although Barry lived his adult life as a man, the sex he was assigned at birth is disputed. It is widely believed that Barry was assigned female at birth and was previously named Margaret Ann Bulkley, and that he chose to live as a man so that he might be accepted as a university student and be able to pursue his chosen career as a surgeon. If so, then Barry was the first Briton who was assigned female at birth to become a qualified medical doctor. It has also been theorized that Barry was intersex.

In 1857, he arrived in Montreal and was promoted to the office of Inspector General of the British Military hospitals of Upper and Lower Canada. His residence was a luxurious house at the corner of Sherbrooke and Durocher Streets.



James Barry retired in 1864 — reputedly against his wishes — and returned to England.

He died from dysentery July 25, 1865 and apparently the domestic servant who took care of the body, Sophia Bishop, was the first to discover his female body, and revealed the truth after the funeral. Afterwards many people claimed to "have known it all along". The British Army sealed all records for 100 years. Historian Isobel Rae gained access to the army records in the 1950's, and concluded that Barry was a niece of James Barry, the painter.

He was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery with the only name he was ever known by and with full rank.

(Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

## My say : I am a transsexual

Caroline Sanscartier ([princessesaphir@live.ca](mailto:princessesaphir@live.ca))



### Tell or don't tell, that's the question!

I've asked myself this question many times. At 25 years old, at 30 years old, and even now at more than 40 years old...

I've always had difficulty finding the answer. Over the years, housewives were becoming professionals, gays were coming out of their closets, macho men were becoming less macho, and blacks were running for the United-States presidency.

I was watching the parade pass me by...

Sorry, I did not introduce myself. To paraphrase alcoholic anonymous, my name is Caroline and I am a transsexual...

...and I "pass".

In the transsexual vocabulary "passing" means to fit in with the crowd. I work, I live, I love and I'm being loved as a woman. Whoops, it reminds me of an old transsexual movie...

I have been a conference hostess, a luxury furniture counselor, an administrative assistant for two television channels; I've also organized politic events. Today, I decorate houses and study at university.

But I've always kept my secret...

To make sure that I do not revealed myself, I've developed techniques to erase every trace of my past.

For instance, if someone asks me to see pictures of my childhood...

*I would say that my parent's house was set on fire and the pictures burned!*

If someone asks me where I was born...

*I would pick a city that I knew well, nearby my hometown, and describe it as the place I grew up.*

If someone tells me that I have a sexy voice...

*I would say: "Thanks but you haven't heard my mother's voice!"*

By being so suspicious, I got caught up in it. I was fooling even myself. I went as far as living 7 years with a man without revealing my secret: dangerous acrobatics but I wanted to be sure to see desire for a "real" woman in the eyes of my handsome macho man! Finally, I refuted this love. I had a breakdown.

I've also had a breakdown during an aerobic session when an old acquaintance, from my transitioning period, pointed a finger at me in front of all my friends, with a nasty stare that I'll never forget...

I wanted so much to fit in that I was vanishing at the same time.

**I had become defenseless!** (continued p.6)

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Born as a boy in 1965, Caroline Sanscartier (pen name) started her sexual conversion process at 18 years old. Two years later, she completed her transformation with sex reassignment surgery. After working in communications for 15 years, she now entertains herself by interior decorating. She writes occasionally. Caroline has lived in Montreal since 1985. Very few people know about her past.

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## My say : I am a transsexual

**Caroline Sanscartier**

### Coming out (con't)

While in the midst of an existential crisis, I had heard everywhere that in order to come out, to be authentic, opening up is the ultimate liberation; that in the long run, to flee, to lie, to hide the truth or to avoid the subject kills you little by little.

What is the point of revealing this past, so incompatible with my present; to betray this body that I won after many great sacrifices; to risk losing being treated as the woman I am?

### Could I be accused of being a coward?

After carefully hiding a part of my life during almost 25 years, I had become anxious and worried, despite the fact that I had followed word for word the recommendations given by some psychiatrists who evaluated me in the past.

Evaluated is the right word, because I had received no psychological support at all. I would have needed it at the time but I had to be pretty, smile and pretend that everything was all right!

Lately, I've witnessed the emergence of the transsexuals in Quebec:

At the beginning of her transition, Michelle Blanc went for broke by revealing herself to her customers. Among transmen, Maxime Le May revealed his transition during a speech given to the delegates from the Canada Employment and Immigration Union during their congress in 2008. They had guts! Transsexuals can finally have a say in the matter. Thanks to you and thanks to everybody who is not afraid to show their true self.

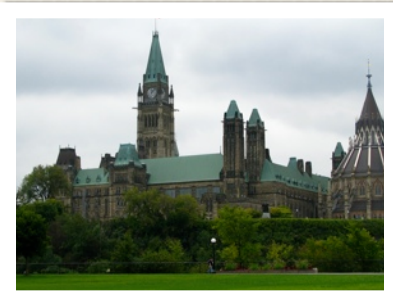
As for me, I have decided to come out on a smaller scale. Little by little, hand in hand with my partner from the last 10 years, I reveal who I really am to the people I love: to the beautiful kids who grew up around me, to my friends and also to the medical community. Following my doctor's recommendations, a urologist checked my prostate condition: you should have seen his facial expression as well as the assistant's one during the exam... Those are my own little heroic acts!

There is no point in lying: I am not bio! But today, it's a well-adjusted woman that I see in the loving eyes of my life partner.

Finally, I advocate the freedom to choose for yourself. I continue to believe that the act of remaining stealth is a choice, but living in fear of being discovered isn't.

- C. Sanscartier

**AUGUST 2009**



NEWS FROM HERE AND  
ABROAD



HEALTH : TESTOSTERONE



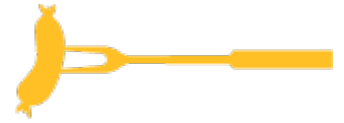
GRS FILE : RAMQ



TRANS RESOURCES

Back for a third time !

# The Annual Corn Roast.



August 8th 2008 - 13h30



Fun, fresh air, horseback riding, volleyball, badminton, campfire, and camping onsite are planned for the event!

Corn on the cob and hot dogs are on the menu!

Tr@nZ invites you in huge numbers to this event, situated in a lovely country setting, at the hobby farm «blanche et bleue», for the third consecutive year!



We are looking forward to your participation for this event!

... more information about this activity event will be available in our next bulletin!