

MINISTER SAYS GAYS UNFIT TO ADOPT CHILDREN

REGINA (CUP) - A human rights group is calling for the resignation of Saskatchewan's minister of Social Services after he said homosexual couples should not be allowed to adopt children.

"I don't believe homosexuals should be allowed to adopt children in this province, and that is the state of adoption right now," Grant Schmidt told reporters at the provincial legislature October 29. "We have more stable families lining up for adoption and we believe we should do what's best for children."

When a reporter asked Schmidt why homosexual couples would be less stable than heterosexuals, Schmidt answered, "go and find out for yourself."

Following this comment, Schmidt's chief of staff, Len Schnell, escorted the minister away, telling reporters, "Okay guys, end of the programme, he answered your questions."

"(Premier) Grant Devine ultimately has the responsibility for what his minister said, and the premier has got to come out and explain what his stand is," said Peter Millard of the newly formed Coalition for Human Equality.

"Are there two classes of citizens? Does he agree

with his minister of social services? And if he doesn't he must take steps to remedy that. The obvious thing is to remove Mr. Schmidt," said Millard who is also chair of the department of English at the University of Saskatchewan.

But Schmidt said in a CBC-TV interview that his policy is supported by the rest of the Progressive Conservative government caucus.

Mona Acker, a professor at the University of Regina's School of Social Work, said research shows that gay and lesbian couples are as adept at parenting as heterosexual couples.

Acker quoted studies done between 1979 and 1981 based on interviews with 37 heterosexual and 43 lesbian mothers. The studies concluded that the children of lesbian mothers had the same psychological makeup and male-female behaviour as children of single mothers and heterosexual couples.

Erin Shoemaker, western spokesperson for the United Church gay and lesbian organization (Affirm), said Schmidt has no right to make moral judgements.

"As a church member I am concerned about Grant Schmidt arbitrarily deciding who is Christian and who is not and on the basis of that,

whether we're really fit people or not," Shoemaker said.

Wayne Rorke, the coordinator of the Saskatchewan Adoptive Parents Association, said that gay and lesbian adoptive parents would be welcome in that organization.

"We don't discriminate," he said.

Though Schmidt has apparently written off the gay and lesbian vote for the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, he has support in some quarters.

On October 16, Schmidt and Premier Devine were presented with a pro-family award at the founding convention of the Victorious Women of Canada, in Saskatoon. The organization was formed after a split in the controversial family issues group, REAL Women of Canada.

A press release said Schmidt was granted the award partly because he ensured that gay rights legislation was not implemented in the province.

According to Vonda Kosloski of Victorious

Bodygear

ACTIVEWEAR (FOR WOMEN)

- leotards
- tights
- sweats

199 Prince St.
Charlottetown
892-7005

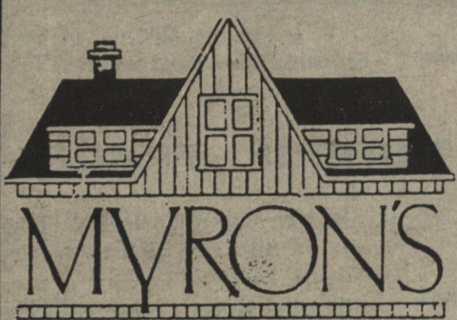
Women, the minister "defends innocent children who have no one to defend them from a militant homosexual lobby group."

Victorious Women opposes adoption rights for gays because it claims a high proportion of gay people have been exposed to the AIDS virus and will transmit the disease to the children through "wet sneezes" and the exchange of body fluids.

"This is a total fabrication," said Nils Clausson, executive director of AIDS Regina, and English professor at the University of Regina.

"There is no scientific evidence to prove - and there is actually quite a lot to disprove - that the virus is transmitted through casual contact," said Clausson. "Statements like these show

Cont. on page 6



UPSTAIRS

WE OFFER MORE 7 DAYS A WEEK

MONDAY

Happy Hour All Night

TUESDAY

Student Night half price night
Rock to the Hits of the past
9-10 9" pizza and all the beverage
on tap you can drink five dollars

WEDNESDAY

CARIBBEAN NIGHT
CHANCE TO WIN 8 DAYS IN
MONTEGO BAY JAMAICA
other giveaways and prizes

THURSDAY

Gong Show December 3
featuring PARTS DEPT.

FRIDAY

HAPPY HOUR 4-8
free food

SUNDAY

CHEM FREE dance to the top 40



This Friday (Nov. 27)

with the

UPEI Jazz Ensemble

James Montgomery director

FREE
ADMISSION

8:00 pm at
Steele Recital Hall