



La Leche League Canada

Because breastfeeding isn't always easy, we're here to help

LLLC.ca

August 23, 2012

Dear friends of LLLC,

You may have heard about the transgendered breastfeeding father, Trevor, who has inquired about becoming a La Leche League Canada (LLLC) Leader. With the support of his local LLLC Leaders and Group, he has breastfed his baby with the addition of a nursing supplementer and donor milk; we are pleased to hear that he has had such success. Here is a link to our response to Trevor's Milkjunkies blog: <http://www.lllc.ca/media-room>

This is the first time in La Leche League's 56-year history that we have had an inquiry about leadership from a breastfeeding father, so we have had to consider carefully La Leche League's prerequisites for leadership, policies and the societal issues of gender identity.

As an Affiliate of La Leche League International (LLLI) our foundational philosophy and policies originate with the central division of the organization. Our Leader Accreditation Department (LAD) also operates under LLLI, meaning that LLLC is not able to make a decision on such a complex issue without a process in which all parts of the international organization can participate. We have included LLLI's media statement below.

Should these policies be reconsidered in light of our changing society? Many believe they should; however, it may take considerable time, effort and discussion to reach an international consensus. All the suggestions, concerns, and comments being made will be taken into serious consideration. In the meantime, we will continue our essential work of serving breastfeeding families wherever they are and whatever their needs.

Although our present guidelines will not allow Trevor to work towards LLL leadership at this time, we very much appreciate his support of LLLC, his participation as an LLLC Group member, and we respect his commitment to breastfeeding and to supporting breastfeeding families.

Sincerely,

Fiona Audy

LLLC Board Chair



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La Leche League International Media Statement

La Leche League International is an international volunteer service organization which offers information, encouragement, and support for breastfeeding. Our organization is addressing and carefully considering a unique matter raised when a transgender individual, who has self-identified as a father, approached La Leche League Canada with a request to be considered for accreditation as a La Leche League Leader. A La Leche League Leader is a volunteer with specialized knowledge and training in providing mother-to-mother breastfeeding support.

To our knowledge, this topic has never arisen in the 56-year history of our organization. It is important that La Leche League International and its community thoughtfully consider the issues that are being raised and carefully examine its policies applicable to this matter. We are committed to considering all points of view. To that end, the La Leche League International Board of Directors will carefully review all facts and implications of this unprecedented subject. Our top priority - today and always - is to create policies and take actions that support our community of volunteers, members and supporters. We look forward to sharing the details about our review process and its outcome in due course.

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