

Thunder Bay Post  
Tuesday, June 14, 1994 Vol. 4, No. 31 page 1  
Bill's defeat sparks protest  
by Mickey Koivisto

Local gays, lesbians and their children reacted to the defeat of Bill 167 with Thunder Bay's first demonstration for sexual equality.

They chose Lyn McLeod's office as the venue for the protest. Many local gays and lesbians say they feel betrayed by McLeod's turnaround on same sex equality issues.

Bill 167 was killed last week during its second reading. McLeod voted no.

The week was still one of note for the gay and lesbian community. Friday's protest is the first demonstration of its kind in city history.

The timing is also significant, say the activists. As New York City commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first gay/lesbian rights protest, Thunder Bay holds its first. Over one million gays and lesbians will congregate in New York this month to celebrate the Stonewall Inn riots. The event is known as the birthplace of the gay/lesbian rights movement.

"Stonewall 25, Thunder Bay 1" said one protester.

"Stonewall began with a handful of courageous people. Now the date is celebrated every June in cities all over the world." said Jen Metcalfe an organizer for Lakehead university's gay/lesbian/bisexual group. She added that "Even though there are only 50 of us here, it's a very significant beginning."

"Thunder Bay and Lyn McLeod need to know that we're here, we're your neighbours, co-workers and children. We're not going to go away," said a lesbian mother who attended the event with her kids. Some kids carried signs which read, "Lesbians make great Moms."

Earlier this week the representatives of several unions, including United Steelworkers, Public Service Alliance of Canada, CUPE and Ontario Public Service Employees Union called a press conference to announce their support of the Bill. It would have given same sex couples in long term relationships the same rights and tax duties as their heterosexual counterparts.

Ms. McLeod was not in Thunder Bay to comment, but "Members of the gay/lesbian group have formally requested an interview," said a spokesperson for McLeod's office.

\$1.00  
(G.S.T. included)

THUNDER BAY

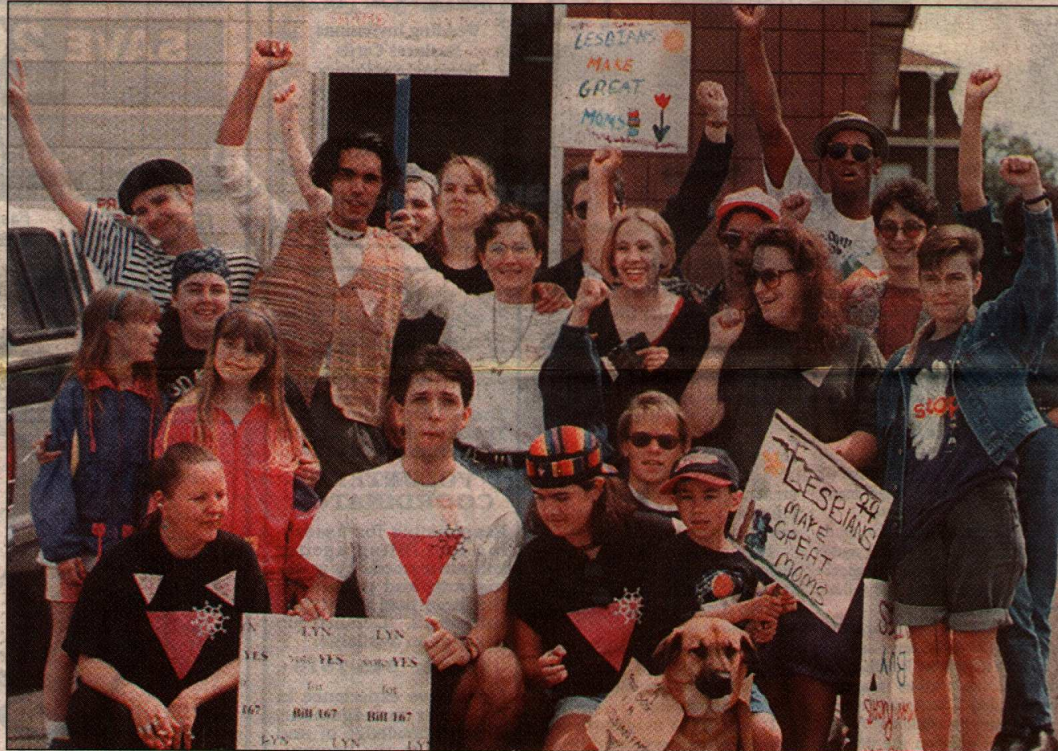
# POST



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MICKY KOIVISTO

## Gay families protest

"The gay community is no longer friends with Lyn McLeod," said a young protester named Christian during a protest in front of the Liberal leader's office Friday. Many of the protesters had apparently worked to get McLeod elected because of her promise to support same sex equality.

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