



## **ELEPHANTS AND THE TORONTO ZOO**

- Toronto Zoo professional staff commissioned studies in 2007 and in August, 2010 to examine the current and future facility requirements of the elephants and look at options for the Zoo's 37-year-old elephant program. These studies have been completed recently.
- This review is consistent with solid and rigorous business planning practices, which, as with any other successful cultural institution, have always been a cornerstone of the Toronto Zoo since its start in 1974.
- The review of the Zoo's exhibit design, layout and wildlife collection has always been a fundamental planning initiative undertaken each year by the Zoo's professional and expert staff.
- The Zoo's Master Plan identifies how the Zoo will be undergoing constant renewal over the next 25 years.
- These reports will be considered by the Zoo's Board of Management on May 12. This meeting is open to the public.
- Ultimate responsibility for the Toronto Zoo rests with the Board of Management comprised of city councillors and appointed private citizens. It is the Board's responsibility to review, consider and make decisions on appropriate strategic matters.
- Toronto Zoo is a public institution which engages with individuals and organizations that are interested in its programs, operations and the welfare of the Zoo's wildlife.
- Any decision by the Zoo's Board of Management will consider factors addressed by the commissioned studies, including the health and well being of the Toronto Zoo's elephants.

The Toronto Zoo is proud of the work and care its Keepers and staff provide to its animals, including the elephants.

- The Zoo is an important, accredited home for its animals and an important learning centre.
- Toronto Zoo attracts more than 1.3 million visitors a year to the site and thousands more through outreach and distance learning.

- Toronto Zoo is one of the most respected zoos in the world, doing important research on wildlife and species protection. Toronto Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA).
- Any queries about Toronto Zoo or its elephant program should be directed to Shanna Young, Toronto Zoo Executive Director Marketing and Communications, 416-392-5936.