

To: Board of Management

From: John Tracogna  
Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **GIANT PANDA ACQUISITION UPDATE**

Date: 2010-05-25

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**Summary:**

This report provides a summary of recent developments regarding the Giant Panda Acquisition project and proposes next steps to further this initiative.

**Recommendation:**

**It is recommended that this report be received for information.**

**Background:**

On 2010-05-06, the Board of Management requested an update on the Giant Panda Acquisition project, including a 'go-forward' strategy, for the June Board meeting. Dr. Ming-tat Cheung, Chair of the Giant Panda Acquisition Task Force, has reviewed this report and concurs with the proposed next steps.

**Comments/Discussion:**

At the May meeting, the Board was advised that the Toronto Zoo, Calgary Zoo and Granby Zoo have jointly prepared a proposal to secure the loan of a pair of giant pandas from China. This proposal was submitted to Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. There have been two key developments since the Giant Panda Acquisition project was discussed at the May Board meeting.

First, Mr. Michael Chong, MP for Wellington-Halton Hills and a member on the Zoo's Giant Panda Acquisition Task Force, has delivered the Canadian zoo consortium proposal to the Prime Minister's Office. This is a necessary step to ensure there is support at the highest political level. As well, Mr. Chong has delivered the proposal to the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Finance Minister and Minister Responsible for the GTA. Mr. Chong will be putting the proposal in the hands of several other MP's to generate awareness and support for the initiative.

Secondly, the Calgary Zoo working with staff in Foreign Affairs and International Trade, was able to put the Canadian zoo consortium proposal on the agenda for the Honourable Stockwell Day's recent visit to China. Through the efforts of Minister Day and members of his delegation, the package was delivered to several senior Chinese government officials. Follow up will be undertaken by the Canadian embassy in Beijing. The delegation's interest in acquiring pandas

was reported in some Canadian local media, specifically the Vancouver Sun and the Calgary Herald.

**Next Steps:**

The following steps will be taken to further the Giant Panda Acquisition project:

1. Discuss political results to date with the Giant Panda Acquisition Task Force;
2. Set action steps based on results to date;
3. Review the updated Giant Panda Feasibility Study, as prepared by Balind Architect Inc., with the Task Force.

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John Tracogna  
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