

To: Board of Management

From: Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **TORONTO ZOO COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CAMPUS (TZC3)**

Date: 2020-10-08

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## **SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on the progress of the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus (TZC3). Schematic design is well underway, and we have significant support from our community partners. We have received letters of endorsing the project from community allies and are working toward MOUs with potential project partners who can share their expertise and assist in securing additional support and funding. Most recently we have had discussions with City of Toronto staff from various Divisions to determine whether there are further partnership opportunities at the site.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

## **COMMENTS:**

### **Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus (TZC3) - Status**

The project team has held several meetings with its stakeholder groups within the Toronto Zoo to refine the concept and create a schematic design that incorporates traditional Zoo front entrance elements such as entrance wickets, retail and restaurant facilities. In addition to these traditional elements, the design includes program elements such as classrooms, wet laboratories, a theatre/ lecture hall and a flexible centre for events and programming. The project also includes exterior improvements to landscaping and courtyard design and a flexible outdoor habitat. The attachments to this report outline the latest Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Schematic Design. We are near the end of the schematic design phase and are moving into detailed design for the northern portion of the facility in the upcoming weeks.

### **Support in the Community**

To date, we have received 26 letters of support for the TZC3 from groups such as the City of Toronto, colleges and universities, community organizations and conservation

organizations. These letters demonstrate the engagement of the community in this project and the support that they provide for this project and its potential benefits to the community. The letters of support are attached.

### **Partners: Creating an Experiential Learning Environment**

The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSc) is still very engaged in this project and the design process. UTSc has a strong interest in sharing learning and research space at the TZC3. Conversations with City Legal about the most appropriate frameworks and agreements are under way to determine the best way to bring this partnership to reality.

A challenge with leasing space in the TZC3 to partners is the fact that the TRCA/ City of Toronto site property lines run directly through the middle of the development. As a result we are in discussions with the TRCA to determine the most effective way to address this issue.

### **Next Steps**

In addition to the next steps outlined above we are also working with our Project teams, internal and external, to finalize the schematic design so that we can move forward with the Detailed Design. We expect that Detailed Design will start in November 2020 and anticipate completion in June 2021. Tendering for phase 1 of this project is currently scheduled for July 2021.

We are extremely excited about this project as it provides an opportunity to bring together our Toronto Zoo and the community. As the project develops, we are gaining more support from the community and additional interest from other potential partners. This project is also providing future opportunities to engage more partners to further enhance our zoo connection to the community.

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### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment I – Schematic Design Presentation  
Attachment II – Letters of Support