

ZB5.3 Toronto Zoo Elephant Program

Approved by the Board of Management 2011-05-12

The Board directed that:

1. The Toronto Zoo phase out of the current Elephant Program.
2. The Board of Management reassess at a future date its options for an Elephant Program, pending the IMLS study results, financial considerations, and any other relevant factors.
3. The 2012-2021 Capital Works Program include a placeholder in the amount of \$16.5 million (2010\$) as funding for the Board's future option for the Elephant Program.
4. The existing three elephants be transferred as soon as practical to an accredited AZA institution(s):
 - with enhanced facilities comparable to the Toronto Zoo;
 - that have eliminated the use of bull-hooks or other similar practices not used at the Toronto Zoo; and
 - with animal management programs.
5. Staff report back, as part of the capital budget process:
 - on the use of the elephant facilities by another species, in the interim; and
 - on the feasibility of constructing an Elephant Education Centre or Labyrinth Proposal, as outlined by Zoocheck Canada Inc.
6. Staff report back on a comprehensive marketing and sponsorship plan for the Elephant Program that recognizes the opportunity presented by the exhibit as a limited time only attraction.
7. Toronto Zoo staff meet with Mr. Ed Stewart of the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) to provide him with a tour of the Toronto Zoo's elephant facilities.
8. The Toronto Zoo's Animal Care and Research Committee be requested to report back to the Board of Management concerning the Toronto Zoo elephants' destination.
9. The Chief Executive Officer be requested to ensure that the options presented at the May 12, 2011 meeting of the Board be considered as part of the Toronto Zoo's accepted processes and policies for Toronto Zoo animal transactions.