

The logo for the Toronto Zoo is a large green circle composed of several geometric shapes: a vertical bar, a horizontal bar, a diagonal bar, and a semi-circle. The text "TORONTO ZOO" is overlaid on the logo.

# TORONTO ZOO

## Letters of Support Community Conservation Campus

2020-10-08

# Table of Contents

## Letters of Support

City of Toronto Councillors.....	2
Tourism Toronto .....	3
Centennial College .....	4
University of Toronto Scarborough.....	5
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.....	6
Scarborough Health Network .....	7
Scarborough Community Renewal Organization .....	8
Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums .....	9-10
East Scarborough Storefront .....	11
Woodgreen .....	12-13
Ontario Tech University .....	14
Royal Canadian Geographic Society .....	15
Rotary Club of Scarborough .....	16
MaRS Discovery District .....	17
Toronto Board of Trade .....	18
Second Harvest .....	19
Canadian Museum Association .....	20
Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada .....	21
Canadian Association of Science Centres .....	22
Earth Rangers .....	23
Clean Tech North .....	24
Pollution Probe .....	25
Canada Blooms .....	26
DeRo Foundation .....	27
Vimy Foundation .....	28



**Councillor Paul W. Ainslie**  
City of Toronto Councillor  
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee  
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo



Email: [councillor\\_ainslie@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca)

Website: [www.paulainslie.com](http://www.paulainslie.com)

Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough-Guildwood  
 Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood  
 @Ainslie\_ward24

August 24, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., MP Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Subject: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project

Dear Minister,

Your Toronto Zoo plays a critical role connecting Canadians to how they can help protect the natural world. I am proud to serve on the Zoo's Board of Management and help ensure the Toronto Zoo achieves our mission, to connect people, animals and conservation science to fight extinction.

I am writing to request your support for the proposed Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project. This ambitious project will empower people of all ages and all walks of life to help protect biodiversity and fight climate change. It will provide a community gathering place to discuss the science that academics from across the country are producing and provide a place for the difficult conversations about our future if we do not take action.

This initiative will connect to the new ZooShare biodigester and the new Rouge National Urban park lands, while also creating job opportunities in the east City of Toronto. The Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus will build on our proven track record of connecting with guests onsite and online and ensure our Zoo and our community take the next step in building the Canada we all believe in.

This project is identified in the City of Toronto's capital plan and the facility will contribute to our TransformTO climate action strategy on greenhouse gas reductions to be net zero by 2050. I am pleased to have such a policy supporting and shovel worthy opportunity on our community!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support,

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie  
City of Toronto Councillor  
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood  
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

Sincerely,

Jennifer McKelvie  
City of Toronto Councillor  
Ward 25, Scarborough Rouge Park

Sincerely

Cynthia Lai  
City of Toronto Councillor  
Ward 23, Scarborough North

cc:

Mr. Gary Anandasangaree, M.P.  
His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto  
Mr. Dolf DeJong, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo

Constituency Office  
Scarborough Civic Centre  
150 Borough Drive  
Scarborough, ON M1P 4N7  
Tel: 416-396-7222

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Suite C52  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Tel: 416-392-4008  
Fax: 416-392-4006

September 1, 2020

Through our close partnership with The Toronto Zoo we have learned more about the detailed plan for the new Front Entrance and Community Conservation Campus. This is a highly strategic and important initiative from many perspectives, including the opportunity to elevate the Zoo as a principal draw for tourism and an experience for visitors to the city.

The new entrance will provide a smoother and more welcoming gateway into the Zoo, more easily facilitating groups, families and individuals, and it will make arrival at the Zoo a meaningful part of the experience rather than purely a functional service area. In the era of consumer ratings and photo-sharing, turning a point of potential friction into an impactful experience is essential.

Beyond the entrance itself, the expanded vision for the Conservation Campus will undoubtedly position the Zoo even more positively and prominently as an experience for both residents and visitors. Our research among global travelers has consistently shown that consumers are looking more and more for meaningful experiences where they are mindful of the connection between the experience and the place and community they are visiting and on the broader environment. Here there is clear alignment between the Zoo's vision and the evolving demands of consumers.

This project illustrates the Toronto's Zoo's clear leadership position among Toronto's community-minded businesses and particularly among our visitor experiences. We admire the vision that connects experiences to meaningful research and to the people of the community – an enlightened formula that in turn has been shown to lead to better business results as a visitor experience. We enthusiastically support this initiative and will continue to work closely with The Toronto Zoo to maximize the opportunity for the entire city.

Sincerely,

Andrew Weir  
 Executive Vice President, Destination Development  
 Tourism Toronto

# Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project

August 2020

## Letter of Support

Centennial College would like to express its full support for the Toronto Zoo's Community Conservation Campus Project.

Anyone who has visited the zoo, especially with a child, a young learner in hand, will know that it creates lasting impressions on its visitors, amplifying a sense of wonder, curiosity and social responsibility towards wildlife and the natural world. By establishing the Conservation Campus, the Zoo is creating a unique space for visitors to gain exposure to environmental consciousness, sustainability initiatives, and the integration of the human and natural environments. In doing so, the Zoo is taking tangible steps to promote conservation, provide the public with meaningful learning opportunities and advance Toronto's sustainability goals.

The Conservation Campus will also create a new space for Indigenous communities to spark engagement and teach others about their culture. Offering these teachings in a space that connects with nature will, if done in full consultation with Indigenous communities and nations, not only serve as a teaching opportunity about Indigenous ways of being and doing, but also help connect urban Indigenous peoples in the GTA with the land and with their culture – a critical element of Truth and Reconciliation.

Many of the elements I have outlined complement the programming we offer at Centennial College. This groundbreaking project will enable us to bring our students' learning to life in unique and meaningful ways, particularly as it relates to our Indigenous studies, environmental and tourism programs, and to our own work with Truth and Reconciliation.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of bringing together anchor institutions and harnessing our collective efforts to promote community resilience. By providing access to the Conservation Campus before the admission gates open, the Zoo is prioritizing knowledge sharing and education over increasing profits, and is demonstrating a strong commitment to putting our community first. Such a noble and community-driven goal is incredibly admirable and one Centennial couldn't be prouder of supporting.

With respect,



Dr. Craig Stephenson  
President & CEO



September 16, 2020

Dolf DeJong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Zoo  
200 Meadowvale Road  
Toronto, ON M5B 5K7

**Re: Letter of Support for Community Conservation Campus**

Dear Dolf,

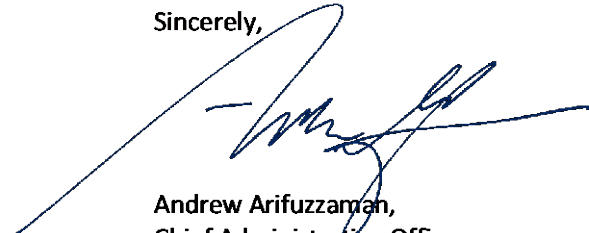
The University of Toronto Scarborough enthusiastically endorses your proposal of developing a community conservation campus at the Toronto Zoo.

The University of Toronto Scarborough is an anchor institution in the Eastern GTA situated in one of Toronto's most diverse and multicultural neighbourhoods. The University of Toronto Scarborough is a leader in providing exceptional undergraduate and graduate student experiences that are built on the teaching and research excellence of its faculty.

The Toronto Zoo is a world class centre for education and science, committed to providing compelling guest experiences and inspiring passion to protect wildlife and habitats. The University and Toronto Zoo have a long standing relationship in promoting shared goals and ideals in collaboratively pursuing research, education and innovations that benefit wildlife, biodiversity and the environment. Both of our institutions recognize the challenges of the lack of infrastructure in this part of the City to engage our residents.

Accordingly, the Toronto Zoo proposal to provide for a community conservation campus would provide much needed infrastructure and resources to the Eastern GTA for guests, students, faculty and the international community.

Sincerely,



Andrew Arifuzzaman,  
Chief Administrative Officer  
University of Toronto Scarborough

Chief Executive Officer



September 16, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Dolf DeJong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Zoo  
361A Old Finch Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M1B 5K7

ddejong@torontozoo.ca

**Re: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project**

Dear Mr. DeJong,

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (“TRCA”) works to safeguard and enhance the health and well-being of watershed communities through the protection and restoration of the natural environment and the ecological services that the environment provides. Our mission is to protect, conserve and restore natural resources and develop resilient communities through education, the application of science, community engagement, service excellence and collaboration with our partners.

Working towards achieving our mission across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), TRCA seeks to collaborate with key partners, such as the Toronto Zoo and the City of Toronto, to increase our collective impact. The Toronto Zoo’s mission to connect people, animals and conservation science in an effort to fight extinction closely aligns with TRCA as we collaborate to protect and enhance the natural lands in the GTA, benefitting the species who call these greenspaces home. The proposed Community Conservation Campus Project at the Toronto Zoo is a unique opportunity to deepen environmental educational connections with guests and simultaneously build their understanding of healthy ecosystems and watersheds. We support the principles behind the development of this type of space – an inclusive, green and accessible commons to build appreciation and respect for nature.

The conservation of greenspace, species and continued education within the community is a complex issue that requires continued collaboration with a diverse range of partnerships. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Toronto Zoo to advance mutually beneficial projects such as the proposed Community Conservation Campus Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John MacKenzie", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John MacKenzie, M.Sc.(PI) MCIP, RPP  
Chief Executive Officer



The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., MP  
Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

I am pleased to be writing you today with my overwhelming endorsement for the Toronto Zoo's submission to create a Community Conservation Campus right here in Scarborough, Ontario.

The Toronto Zoo has been an active and integral partner for Scarborough Health Network (SHN) in our collective goal of improving the lives of our residents and celebrating our community. During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Toronto Zoo went above and beyond in their efforts to support our frontline heroes the our diverse population.

The new Community Conservation Campus will position Scarborough as a leader in Green innovation. It will be a hub for people from across the GTA to connect with nature and learn about the role we play in protecting our environment. It will also be a gathering place that will educate and inspire the next generation of Canadian leaders.

From an economic perspective, this project will create high-paying and much needed jobs in our community. As we begin the recovery phase of the post-pandemic period, these jobs will help provide stability for workers and their families.

Minister, I hope that you will take this project under consideration and I look forward to working with your government and the Toronto Zoo to make this a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Buller', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Buller  
President and CEO  
Scarborough Health Network



August 20, 2020

Dolf DeJong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Zoo  
361A Old Finch Avenue  
Scarborough, ON M1B 5K7

Dear Dolf:

Re: Community Conservation Campus Project

Thank you for sharing the outline of the *Community Conservation Campus* project with us.

We are delighted to express our support for this project.

As you know, SCRO is a multi-stakeholder group of community volunteers seeking to *Renew Scarborough* through economic development, holistic suburban planning, an enhanced natural environment, social development and health promotion, and arts and culture.

The Toronto Zoo is one of the great jewels of Scarborough. We are proud to have a world class zoo in our backyard. It brings people together from all corners of Scarborough and plays an important role in supporting our underserved communities.

All Scarborough stakeholders have a shared interest in ensuring that the Toronto Zoo remains vital and engaging and is well supported by a broad cross-section of users.

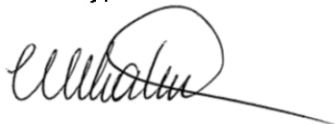
To achieve this, the entrance needs to be attractive, inviting, and needs to promote the Zoo's mission and vision. However, it has become rather tired over the years and is in significant need of a refresh.

The revitalized front entrance illustrated in your proposal will promote these objectives and be a catalyst for increased engagement by students, academics, and Scarborough residents generally.

We also endorse your collaboration with University of Toronto Scarborough and Rouge National Urban Park in support of this project. The Zoo's vision and vision are strongly aligned with those of RNUP and the Zoo provides a unique opportunity to support UTSC's commitment to experiential learning.

We applaud your efforts to increase the visibility, vitality, and sustainability of the Zoo and to improve the Zoo's connections with our anchor institutions and the surrounding community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Whatmore', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry Whatmore  
President  
[Larry.Whatmore@rogers.com](mailto:Larry.Whatmore@rogers.com)  
(416) 562-2101

August 21, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., MP  
Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

**Subject: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project**

Dear Minister:

On August 13, 2020 we provided you with a copy of CAZA's pre-budget submission, in it we asked that accredited zoo and aquarium infrastructure projects be eligible for financial assistance going forward, be it in a new federal budget or otherwise.

This is a letter of support for the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project. This project, outlined in greater detail in the attached, is a real example of conservation and community-based projects accredited zoos in Canada undertake.

As a sustainable environmental hub celebrating conservation, education, technology and innovation the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus project will serve several different needs, it will:

- Be accessibility for all as it will be situated outside of the Zoo's admission gates with no fee to use the Campus.
- Benefit local Indigenous communities by providing access and space and enhanced cultural engagement opportunities and historical learning.
- Provide University of Toronto Scarborough students with a unique connection world class research facilities, animals and plants on-site.
- Reinforce conservation objectives aligned with sustainability-based programming including the Urban park Welcome Centre, the new ZooShare Bio-digester and implementation of the Beare Road Park.

The project cost is estimated to be \$45 million, \$21 of which has been allocated by The City of Toronto capital plan. We see a tremendous opportunity to leverage government infrastructure assistance with other partners. As a next step, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you and your officials in greater detail.

../2

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This project is an opportunity to make a real difference in the local community, an accessible conservation hub serving many needs. We look forward to your support.

Thank you,



Jim Facette  
Executive Director  
Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums  
[jfacette@caza.ca](mailto:jfacette@caza.ca)  
Tel.: (613) 627-3779

cc: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister  
The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages  
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage  
The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry  
The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Disability Inclusion  
Mr. Gary Anandasangaree, M.P.  
His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto  
Mr. Dolf Dejong, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo

August 26, 2020

Attn: Dolf DeJong,  
The Toronto Zoo  
361A Old Finch Avenue  
Toronto, ON M1B 5K7

**Re: Community Conservation Campus at the Toronto Zoo**

The East Scarborough Storefront is pleased to provide this letter in support of the proposed Community Conservation Campus at the Toronto Zoo. As a Community Backbone Organization rooted in the Kingston-Galloway / Orton Park (KGO) neighbourhood of East Scarborough, The Storefront views the Community Conservation Campus as a tremendous opportunity not only for community engagement, but also to influence the systems that contribute to community well-being for local residents.

Despite its proximity to KGO, for many in the neighbourhood, the Zoo has been a hard-to-reach destination for recreation, education, and employment opportunities. A facility like this, built with the specific intention of bringing people from all walks of life together, that is free to access, and that demonstrates the leading edge work in conservation and environmental sustainability that's happening right in East Scarborough, will provide local residents with a much needed doorway to their own backyard. We are particularly excited about the aspirations that will be sparked among local racialized youth, for whom the Conservation Campus will present a clear line of sight to fields of study and career opportunities that may have otherwise seemed too distant from their lived realities to consider.

East Scarborough Storefront also recognizes that large infrastructure projects like the Community Conservation Campus are opportunities to address local employment equity challenges from the ground up. To that end, The Storefront has collaborated with a number of Scarborough-based stakeholders to establish East Scarborough Works, a local workforce development network that ensures when local jobs are created as a result of public spending, local people have the best possible chance of being successful candidates for those jobs. The Conservation Campus is exactly the kind of project that the East Scarborough Works pathways to employment are intended to complement, so that local residents can participate in and benefit from improvements to local assets from their onset.

The Toronto Zoo is an important anchor institution in East Scarborough, and we are delighted that it is taking this leadership role in creating a more connected community.

Sincerely,



Anne Gloger  
Principal, East Scarborough Storefront



Opportunity made here.

August 31, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., MP  
Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

***Subject: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project***

Dear Minister McKenna,

We are writing this letter for support for the new Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project. This inclusive education and outreach initiative would be a valuable addition to the citizens living in the east end of Toronto and beyond.

WoodGreen Community Services and The Toronto Zoo have recently signed an innovative new partnership, committed to addressing social determinants of health in our shared communities.

WoodGreen Community Services is one of the largest community service agencies in Toronto, serving 37,000 people each year. Together we help people find safe, affordable housing, seniors live independently, internationally-trained professionals enter the job market, parents access childcare, children and youth access after-school programs, newcomers settle in to Canadian life, homeless and marginalized people get off the streets, youth find meaningful employment and training and provide a wide range of mental health supports. We are a founding partner of the new East Ontario Health Team.

In discussions with the Toronto Zoo team, it is clear that they are committed to collaborating with organizations like ours to serve all members of our community. We believe the educational programs the Zoo provides and connections to the natural world people make through safe outdoor experiences in places like the Zoo are important life experiences that all should have access to. The Community Conservation Campus Project, with its shared spaces, green infrastructure and openness to all will be an important learning hub for our clients.

[www.woodgreen.org](http://www.woodgreen.org)

815 Danforth Avenue, Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario M4J 1L2



We look forward to seeing this project develop and how we can further collaborate to ensure all our community can share these amazing spaces and investments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours very truly,

*Marketa Evans*

**Marketa D. Evans**

Vice President, Community Programs Unit

**Pronouns:** She/Her

Phone: (416) 645-6000 (Ext. 1945) | Fax: (416) 572-0066 | Email: [mevans@woodgreen.org](mailto:mevans@woodgreen.org)  
815 Danforth Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, ON M4J 1L2

cc:

Mr. Gary Anandasangaree, M.P.

His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto

Mr. Dolf DeJong, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo

August 21, 2020

Dolf DeJong, CEO  
Toronto Zoo  
361A Old Finch Avenue  
Toronto ON M1B 5K7

Dear Dolf:

Please accept this letter of support for on behalf of Ontario Tech University for the proposed Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project. The project is aligned with the direction of the University, which is committed to social, scientific and economic innovation that create a better Canada and better world. The proposed project offers many opportunities to connect communities to nature, and promote conservation education and innovation with green technology.

Ontario Tech University students and faculty have been collaborating with the Toronto Zoo on digital transformation projects to assist with the modernization of the technological infrastructure. Our students are grateful to be given the opportunity for experiential learning through capstone projects to map and design the next generation networks, participate in the design and user experience testing of Apps, and explore augmented reality experiences for patrons of the zoo.

The Community Conservation Campus Project can further our partnership by leveraging our campus-wide expertise in Data Visualization and Analytics, Biological Science, Education, and Game Development in novel interactive ways with visitors from the community to promote deeper learning and engagement on topics related to the human impact on biodiversity.

We are also fully supportive of the plan to leverage the spaces to drive community impact to work with youth and seniors in the region to promote education and healthy living, and work with the local Indigenous communities to share traditional knowledge, culture and history. These initiatives are well aligned with Ontario Tech University's priorities and expertise.

Sincerely,



Dr. Steven Murphy  
President and Vice-Chancellor



August 27, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., MP  
Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

**Subject: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project**

**Thank you for your ongoing work supporting communities in these challenging times.**

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society was founded in 1929 with the important mandate of making Canada better known to Canadians and to the world. Under the patronage of the Governor General, the Society has, for 90 years, led the charge towards fostering a deeper appreciation of Canada's natural, cultural and social heritage.

**We are writing you today to express the Society's support for the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project. This project, connected to the Zoo's commitment to conservation and education and storytelling, are important tools to connecting Canadians to the natural world. With climate change and biodiversity loss a growing threat, they provide a strong voice in our shared goal in protecting nature for future generations.**

**The Community Conservation Campus will provide a valuable physical gathering place to demonstrate and share advancements in conservation and research, while also providing guests tools to reduce their impact. The facilities focus on sustainability will also be a powerful demonstration site for others to learn from. The classrooms and shared events spaces will be idea venues for Royal Canadian Geographical Society members and supporters to gather for thought provoking discussions.**

**We look forward to continuing to work with the Toronto Zoo and leveraging the Community Conservation Campus to foster a deeper appreciation of Canada's natural, cultural and social heritage.**

Thank you for supporting this initiative,

John Geiger  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Royal Canadian Geographical Society

cc: **Mr. Gary Anandasangaree, M.P.**  
**His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto**  
**Mr. Dolf DeLong, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo**





# The Rotary Club of Scarborough

P.O. BOX 386, STATION 'A' TORONTO, ON M1K 5C3

[www.RotaryClubScarborough.org](http://www.RotaryClubScarborough.org)

August 21, 2020

Dolf DeJong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Zoo  
361A Old Finch Avenue  
Scarborough, ON M1B 5K7

Dear Dolf,

## **Community Conservation Campus Project**

Thank you for sharing the outline of the *Community Conservation Campus Project* with us.

We enthusiastically support this project and look forward to visiting and using the facility as soon as possible.

The plans for the revitalization of the Zoo front entrance including the outreach to other anchor institutions shows the active desire by the Zoo to enhance its involvement in the Scarborough/Toronto community.

We appreciate all that you've achieved since arriving at "our" Zoo and applaud your efforts to improve and increase the vitality of the Zoo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerard".

Gerard Baribeau  
Past President  
Rotary Club of Scarborough  
[gandjbaribeau@rogers.com](mailto:gandjbaribeau@rogers.com)  
(416) 264-4527



August 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

***RE MaRS Discovery District Letter of Support for the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project***

At 1.5m square feet MaRS is North America’s largest urban innovation hub. We exist to help innovators create a better world and we support over 1400 high growth ventures and hundreds of public, private and NFP sector partners annually to advance our mission to “drive positive global impact as the partner-of-choice for entrepreneurs and the innovation community”.

Together with our partners, we are the engine for Canada to lead in the innovation economy, ultimately making Toronto a destination for innovation ecosystem stakeholders to drive global impact. The Toronto Zoo, with their plans to create a Community Conservation Campus, is aligned with this goal.

MaRS supports ventures in the areas of health, fintech, enterprise and, importantly for this project, cleantech. The Community Conservation Campus is intent on positioning Toronto as a green leader through the celebration of environmental conservation, education, technology and innovation. Including creating a sense of the possible for those interested in future careers in conservation and green tech.

Working with anchor institutions, such as the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, Centennial College and the Scarborough Health Network, this new campus will become a community hub that encompasses 7 of Toronto’s 31 Neighbourhood Improvement areas. They are also intent on highlighting the role of our Indigenous peoples; artists; and making space for seniors to feel safe and welcome. MaRS’s shares this worldview, that art inspires, and science & technology bring real world solutions to our communities and to society. All of this is in alignment with the aspiration of MaRS to create an inclusive innovation economy for Canada – an economy that works for all.

This project is bold and ambitious, and exactly the kind of initiative we need in our efforts to build back better in a post-COVID era. We need to create people, communities and cities that embrace the concepts of resilience and we believe this project by the Toronto Zoo will do just that.

Thank you for your consideration.

With kind regards,

Yung Wu, CEO  
MaRS Discovery District

**MaRS Discovery District**

MaRS Centre, South Tower, 101 College Street, Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1L7  
T. 416. 673.8100 F. 416.673.8181 [www.marsdd.com](http://www.marsdd.com)

August 26, 2020

Dolf DeJong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Zoo

Dear Mr. DeJong,

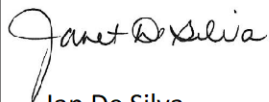
On behalf of Toronto Region Board of Trade and our 10,500 members, I am delighted to write in support of the Toronto Zoo's Community Conservation Campus Project.

While many know the Toronto Zoo as a significant tourist attraction in the east-end of Toronto, it is also an important educational institution, conservation centre and community hub. We support the Zoo's vision to further strengthen relationships in the community through the Campus Project. When a locally significant organization like the Zoo is able to grow, it creates jobs and opportunities in the community.

The Board further supports this project due to the economic development and educational partnership opportunities it presents. The Zoo has been at the forefront of innovative conservation and clean-technology ideas for many years, perhaps most notably through its ZooShare Biogas Co-operative Inc. The Campus Project presents an opportunity for the Zoo to further cement itself as a centre of excellence. Moreover, its partnership with University of Toronto Scarborough demonstrates its commitment to education and experiential learning.

We are proud to support the Toronto Zoo's Community Conservation Campus Project.

Sincerely,



Jan De Silva  
President & CEO



August 25, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am excited to support and endorse the Toronto Zoo as they pursue their *Community Conservation Campus Project* to ensure they can continue to fulfill their mission of connecting people, animals, and conservation science to fight extinction.

As the Vice President of Programs and Partnerships at Second Harvest, I have had the privilege of working with the team at the Toronto Zoo over the past several months on our shared commitment to create healthy communities, minimize food waste and increase food access. They have been outstanding partners to date – committed to working collaboratively across sectors to connect people to each other, to animals and to the environment. They have been incredibly reliable, proactive, and communicative partners, helping to strengthen our programs and services with their own.

Having a Community Conservation Campus would enable Second Harvest and many others to continue to collaborate with the Toronto Zoo in meaningful ways that would help strengthen and promote the health and wellbeing of Toronto residents and the community at large.

Second Harvest is the largest food rescue organization in Canada and global thought leader on food recovery. We work across the supply chain from farm to retail to capture surplus food before it ends up in the landfill which negatively impacts our environment. Supported by hundreds of corporations, foundations, and the community at large, Second Harvest rescues and redistributes enough food to provide over 43,000 meals a day in Canada. Since 1985 Second Harvest has rescued and delivered more than 155 million pounds of food, preventing over 192 million pounds of greenhouse gas equivalents from entering our atmosphere.

We enthusiastically support and endorse the Toronto Zoo's plans for their Community Conservation Campus Project and look forward to all the opportunities it would present for continued collaboration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kiera", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Kiera Toffelmire, Vice President, Programs & Partnerships  
Second Harvest  
kierant@secondharvest.ca  
416-525-2694

Mr. Dolf DeJong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Zoo  
361A Old Finch Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario, M1B 5K7

August 27, 2020

Dear Mr. DeJong,

I'm reaching out today on behalf of the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) to extend our support for the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project.

The Toronto Zoo continues to play an important role in creating a safe place to bring people together and connect with our natural world. The Community Conservation Campus would be a vital community hub acting as a catalyst for greater learning, exploration, and connection for residents of the Greater Toronto Area.

The CMA views institutions like yours, which are part of our broader cultural and heritage sector, as contributing to a just and knowledgeable society. They educate and inspire. They help us teach the importance of conservation and respecting the environment. They create a sense of community and belonging. The addition of the Community Conversation Campus would only strengthen this role in the decades to come.

The return on investment on a project like this is clear. Canada gains billions of dollars a year in economic benefits, in addition to a myriad of social advantages thanks to the important work of our sector. For every dollar invested, Canadians get so much more in terms of both the economic and societal benefits.

This project represents a logical next step for a facility that promotes lifelong learning and community building.

Thank you for your unrelenting commitment to building a brighter tomorrow for all. I look forward to continuing our support.

Yours sincerely,



**Vanda Vitali, Ph.D.**  
**Executive Director and CEO**  
**Canadian Museums Association**



August 20, 2020

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada, this letter is submitted in support of the Toronto Zoo's Community Conservation Campus Project.

Connecting communities to enhance awareness of animals and fighting extinction through conservation science is an important and worthwhile initiative that would hopefully encourage many Canadians from all walks of life to think of ideas that will encourage leadership and strategic like-minded partnerships as more and more we move towards a reimagined future.

A green hub in one of Canada's largest cities will hopefully inspire more action-oriented projects that focus on the environment, conservation, education, technology and innovation.

It is our hope that such a project will encourage more initiatives of this type across Canada, through collaborations and partnerships, giving Canada a new way forward as we strive for a greener future.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth McCrea  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE CENTRES  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES CENTRES DE SCIENCES

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August 26, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., MP Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Subject: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project

Dear Minister McKenna,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to invest in our communities and protect our natural world for future generations. We are writing to request your support for the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project.

The Toronto Zoo is a member of the Canadian Association of Science Centers (CASC) and, as a member of our network, plays an important role building science literacy and critical thinking. The importance of these skills certainly has been highlighted as we fight COVID-19 and work to protect our society from the challenges of fake news and the potential impacts of degraded ecosystems.

By building the new Community Conservation Campus Project in the Scarborough, the Toronto Zoo is taking an important step to help ensure meaningful science experiences and education are accessible to communities with few local choices. Experiences like those delivered at the Zoo result in memories that last a lifetime and help ensure we will have a scientifically literate society.

The plans to build teaching spaces that put green energy and infrastructure on display is critical as we all work together to fight climate change and the current biodiversity crisis. We look forward to working with our Zoo partners on this bold and exciting initiative.

Thank you for supporting this initiative and science literacy across the country.

Sincerely,

Tracy Calogheros  
President CASC Board of Directors

Dr. Marianne Mader  
Executive Director, CASC





August 31, 2020

**Re: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project**

To whom is my concern,

Please accept this letter as a strong expression of support for the Toronto Zoo's Community Conservation Campus Project. The Toronto Zoo is a beloved institution within our city, and its unique location in one of the most underserved areas in Toronto presents an exciting opportunity to expand its impact in the community.

The Zoo is more than just a place where residents and visitors of our city can experience the wonders of wildlife up close. It is also a world-class conservation organization, conducting important research and educating the community about the importance of stewarding our natural world. Not only will this project make the Toronto Zoo an even more attractive destination for tourists and local residents, it will provide a place where people and ideas can come together, resulting in advances in conservation research, environmental education outcomes and leadership opportunities.

As an organization with shared values, Earth Rangers has first-hand knowledge of the impact of this type of programming on youth, families and the broader community.

Best regards,

Tovah Barocas  
President, Earth Rangers



August 28, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., MP  
Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

To The Honourable Catherine McKenna,

Re: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project

I write this letter in support of the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project.

For over 4 decades, the Toronto Zoo has been a hub of conservation and animal welfare in Toronto. Today, there is an additional imperative that the Zoo must undertake: Fostering environmental conservation, education, technology, and innovation. The Toronto Zoo has demonstrated their willingness and ability to take up this mantle and become a “green leader” in the community and the Community Conservation Campus Project will help them to meet and accelerate this mandate.

This is a role that the Toronto Zoo, by its very nature, is uniquely positioned to undertake. In no other facility does such an expansive physical plant (energy, heating, water treatment, HVAC, waste management, etc.) exist to serve and preserve such a myriad of highly unique, demanding, and disparate climates and facilities. The combination of these and other factors make the Toronto Zoo the ideal hub from which to showcase and pilot new clean technologies, educate the community on sustainability principles, nurture innovation and more.

We at CleanTech North believe that the Conservation Campus will achieve exactly that by providing community access to animal exhibits, environmental technologies, laboratories, multi-use spaces, changing exhibit hall, conservation facilities, an event space and a theatre. We believe that, with their approach, the Zoo could become a leader in conservation technologies in much the same way the University Health Network in Toronto has become the largest health research organization in North America.

CleanTech North (CTN) has been recognized as a key catalyst in the growth and sustainability of the clean technology sector in Canada for over 10 years, supporting hundreds of clean technology companies through access to capital, resources, mentorship and relationships. It is our honour to help the Toronto Zoo access the clean technology community and to help identify innovative companies with solutions that can help the Zoo meet and exceed its high environmental standards. We look forward to helping expand upon the foundation the Zoo has established as an implementer of and testbed for cutting edge environmental technologies.

In summary, CleanTech North is pleased to voice its enthusiastic support for this vital project at the Toronto Zoo. We look forward to working alongside them as they advance the Community Conservation Campus Project.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bryan Watson'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Bryan Watson**  
Managing Director

August 31, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Infrastructure  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

**Re: Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project**

Pollution Probe is a Canadian charitable environmental organization that is a leading agent of change at the intersection of communities, health and environment. Since 1969, we have been defining environmental problems through research, promoting understanding through education and pressing for practical solutions through advocacy.

For the past two years, we have worked with the Toronto Zoo on areas of shared interest, in particular connecting community members to the changes they can make in their lives to improve the environment. We are proud of our partnership and pleased to support the Community Conservation Campus Project. This new facility, located at the Toronto Zoo and in proximity to the ZooShare Biodigester and Rouge National Urban Park will bring many groups together and provide an inclusive and accessible venue for a broad cross section of society to learn more about how we are impacting our planet.

Gathering places for ENGO's, academics, government and community members to come together for challenging discussions, linked with robust interpretive infrastructure and online communication tools are critical to mobilize our communities for positive change. This project's commitment to green technology and inclusivity, in an under-supported portion of the GTA make it a rare opportunity we look forward to activating in.

Thank you for your support, please let us know if you have any questions,



Christopher Hilken  
Chief Executive Officer



Dolf DeJong  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Zoo

August 28, 2020

Dear, Mr. DeJong

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your forward thinking on The Community Conservation Campus Vision. The need to connect youth in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas with nature has never been more important.

As Canada Blooms is an annual world-class festival that connects people to the joys and benefits of nature through experiences with gardens and flowers, by promoting, educating, inspiring and celebrating all aspects of horticulture we feel this project continues to align our missions. When we created our memorandum of understanding in March 2020 we envisioned it as a first step towards a future of promoting the benefits of nature together.

Our informal mission statement is – Green for Life- and this project will help us both continue to make this happen.

Good luck with this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Caddo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Caddo  
Executive Director  
Canada Blooms



**DeRo**  
**FOUNDATION**  
DEVELOP • STRENGTHEN • SUSTAIN

August 21, 2020

Re: The Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus

Dear Dolf,

We at the DeRo Foundation are excited and support the plans to have a Community Conservation Campus located at the gates of the Toronto Zoo.

As our After School Program is located in Malvern and we look to expand throughout the Neighborhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) of the GTA, the Campus can serve as an outlet to connect youth with nature, providing information and educating on the importance of conservation and green technology.

We also look to utilize this Campus as a gathering place in the classroom or event space to hold our classroom sessions, where we focus on financial literacy, nutrition, leadership and teamwork. Including having special guest speakers in the areas of Sports, Entertainment, and Socioeconomics to share stories and personal experiences of growing up in Scarborough and overcoming challenges and obstacles to persevere and be successful.

We look forward to working with you and fully support the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus Project and the benefits this Campus will have on the youth and community at large.

Sincerely,

Dwayne De Rosario

DeRo Foundation

[derofoundation@gmail.com](mailto:derofoundation@gmail.com)



Toronto Zoo  
2000 Meadowvale Rd.  
Toronto (ON) M1B 5K7  
ATTN : Dolf De Jong

24 August 2020

RE : Support for the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus

Dear Mr. De Jong,

Thank you for sharing the plan to re-vitalise the Toronto Zoo main entrance and establish the Toronto Zoo Community Conservation Campus. In times like these, organisations have to create opportunities for their clients and provide unique solutions to their needs, both of which are evident in the plan to establish the Community Conservation Campus.

Establishing links with local Indigenous communities and the neighbourhoods that surround the zoo are critical to long term success, and your plans to do so with the Community Conservation Campus will ensure that Toronto Zoo continues to be a community-based and community-linked organisation that adds significant value to the neighbourhood.

The success that Toronto Zoo had hosting the Vimy Foundation exhibition "They Fought in Colour" in the fall of 2019 show that there is a community appetite for cross disciplinary programming. Gallery and event space will be critical to the Zoo's continued desire to provide innovative programs and unexpected partnerships.

As a proud cross disciplinary partner of Toronto Zoo, the Vimy Foundation appreciates your desire to better integrate community partners and offer increased access to your visitors. We look forward to the launch of the project and are willing to help in any way that we can to further your initiative.

Congratulations on this innovative solution!

Sincerely,

Caitlin Bailey, *Executive Director*  
**The Vimy Foundation**  
cbailey@vimyfoundation.ca  
416.545.1917