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## **Zoo Fundraising strength with hiring of new Executive Director of Development**

**January 25, 2010 Toronto:** Toronto Zoo today announced new leadership of its Development team with the appointment of Ms. Shirlene Courtis CFRE as Executive Director of Development. Ms. Courtis joins the Zoo from Seneca College where she was Vice President of Resource Development for the past seven years. Prior experience includes senior development roles with the Learning Partnership, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT), the Anglican Church of Canada, YMCA and the Lyndhurst Hospital Foundation. Ms. Courtis is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and received her Masters Diploma in Public Sector Management from the Schulich School of Business. Ms. Courtis joins the senior management team of Mr. Peter Evans, Acting CEO, Mr. Robin Hale, COO, Ms. Shanna Young, Executive Director, Marketing & Communications, Dr. William Rapley, Executive Director, Conservation, Education and Research, Ms. Susan Gunton, Director, Strategic Planning & Analysis and Mr. Eric Morris, Director, Facilities & Services.

The Toronto Zoo is one of the leading zoos in North America and a beloved institution in the Greater Toronto area and province. In 2009, the Zoo achieved its third highest attendance in its 35 year history with 1,459,580 visitors. The most recent exhibit opening was the award-winning Tundra Trek in the summer 2009 which features the return of polar bears Inuksuk, Aurora and Nakita, orphaned bears that the Toronto Zoo raised as cubs.

The Zoo's master capital plan identifies many exciting renovations and projects to come over the next several years. Plans for a multi-year capital fundraising plan to help shape the Zoo for the future are underway with further announcements to come.

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Zoo Hours – 9:30am to 4:30pm. Last admissions one hour before closing. **General Admission** 13-64 incl. is \$21, Children 3 and under are free, Children 4-12 are \$13 and Seniors 65+ are \$15. Parking is free until March 1. Event schedules and admission prices are subject to change without notice. The Zoo is located at Meadowvale Road and Hwy. 401, Exit 389 east and west bound. The Toronto Zoo is open year round (except Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>). For general information, call (416) 392-5929 or visit

**[torontozoo.com](http://torontozoo.com)**