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For Immediate release

New Chief Executive Officer hired for the Toronto Zoo

March 5, 2010 Toronto: Councillor Raymond Cho, Chair of the Toronto Zoo Board of Management and Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, Chair of the Zoo Board's CEO Selection Panel are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. John Tracogna, as the Zoo's new Chief Executive Officer, effective April 6, 2010.

Mr. Tracogna comes to the Zoo from Ontario Place Corporation where he recently served as General Manager. Prior to this, Mr. Tracogna had over 20 years experience with the City of Toronto where he has held senior leadership positions developing sustainable economic opportunities with Tourism, Special Events and Economic Development. John holds a Masters degree in Applied Environmental Studies (MAES) from the University of Waterloo.

"On behalf of the Board, I warmly welcome our new CEO" said Councillor Cho. "Mr. Tracogna is a man of integrity with outstanding leadership skills and rich knowledge that will be a great asset to the Zoo. I also want to commend Mr. Peter Evans, who has been serving as Acting Zoo CEO, for his leadership, commitment and hard work over the past several months."

Mr. Tracogna joins the Zoo at an exciting time in its 35-year history. 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.

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 ever with 1,459,580 visitors. The most recent exhibit opening was the award-winning Tundra Trek in the summer 2009. It features the return of polar bears Inuksuk, Aurora and Nakita, orphaned cubs that were raised by the Toronto Zoo.

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Zoo Hours – 9:30am to 4:30pm. Last admissions one hour before closing. **Admission fees including GST are:** General 13-64: \$21, Children 3 and under are free, Children 4-12: \$13 and Seniors 65+: \$15. Parking is \$10. 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. 25th). For general information, call (416) 392-5929 or visit

torontozoo.com