



Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
Date: Monday, October 6, 2008

For More Information  
Contact: Katie Gray,  
Supervisor of Public Relations  
(416) 392-5941



## A TORONTO ZOO STUDENT VOLUNTEER BECOMES CANADA'S POLAR BEAR AMBASSADOR

**Monday, October 6, 2008, Toronto, Ontario:** Emily Hawling is just like every other grade 10 student in her class except for one thing – she has been chosen as Canada's one representative to participate in Polar Bears International's Leadership Camp in Churchill, Manitoba. Emily, a Toronto Zoo Student Volunteer, along with other top students from around the world, will be attending the Leadership Camp, from October 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. To view Emily's trip blog visit [www.polarbearsinternational.org](http://www.polarbearsinternational.org).

The Leadership Camp provides students with opportunities to work directly with polar bear scientists, explore issues relating to polar bears, humans and the environment, focus on getting communities to reduce their carbon footprints as a way to restore the polar bears' habitat, and create the leaders of tomorrow on northern conservation issues.

"Every year, we select a group of bright, motivated students who are eager to learn about the bears", says Robert Buchanan, PBI's President. "After they return, they share what they've learned through talks, slide presentations, and media interviews. It's a way to create 'Ambassadors of the Arctic' who can then help people understand the importance of the Far North and the role it plays in the health of our planet."

According to the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), in as few as 100 years, polar bears could be extirpated from most of their range. The major culprit is global warming, which reduces the time the bears have available to hunt seals from the ice, conduct courtships, and mate. Already, the amount of time the bears have to spend on the ice has been reduced by six weeks. Polar Bears International has stepped up to the plate with a number of vital projects, including the Leadership Camp.

Another of the organization's important projects is **Project ThermoSTAT**, which launches in October. If we act now, say the Polar Bear International scientists, we may be able to keep the ice on Hudson Bay longer this year. Their message to us? Turn down your thermostat and save the polar bears' habitat!

Upon Emily Hawling's return from Leadership Camp she will be sharing her findings and the details of her experience at a Toronto Zoo media event. Media wishing for more information about Emily's adventure or an interview with her, before she leaves, should contact Katie Gray, Supervisor of Public Relations, at (416) 392-5941.

-30-

### Current Zoo Hours and Admission Prices – Please note our hours will change

Zoo Hours to Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - 9:30am to 4:30pm. Last admissions one hour before closing. General Admission 13-64 incl. is \$20, Children 3 and under are free, Children 4-12 are \$12 and Seniors 65 + are \$14. Parking is \$8/vehicle. **Event schedule subject to change without notice.** The Zoo is located at Meadowvale Road and Hwy. 401, Exit 389 east and west bound. For general information, call (416) 392-5929. The Toronto Zoo is open year round (except December 25<sup>th</sup>). [torontozoo.com](http://torontozoo.com)