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Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
Thursday, April 14, 2011

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## Elephants And The Toronto Zoo

**Thursday, April 14, 2011:** Elephants have been an integral part of the Toronto Zoo since its opening in 1974. Since then, the management of captive elephants, the status of wild elephants, and public awareness of issues relating to elephants have all changed substantially. That is why, as part of its ongoing stewardship of these majestic animals, the Toronto Zoo contracted CLR Design more than three years ago to perform an Elephant Facilities Feasibility Study to examine the current and future requirements of the elephants at the Toronto Zoo.

In August 2010, Lord Cultural Resources and Schultz and Williams were retained by the Toronto Zoo Board of Management to seek independent and objective assessment to assist with an "Evaluation of the Options for the Elephant Program."

The Lord and CLR studies have been completed and forwarded to the Toronto Zoo CEO for review.

The studies and staff recommendations will be on the agenda for the May 12, 2011 Board of Management meeting for consideration.

The scope of these studies does not include judging the validity of conflicting scientific claims of those who either support or oppose keeping and caring for elephants or any other animals in captivity.

The criteria to evaluate options for the Toronto Zoo elephant program did include looking at the elephant issue in the context of:

- The Toronto Zoo's Vision and Strategic Plan
- Health and Well-Being of Elephants
- Conservation and Education Commitments
- Availability of Elephants
- Capital Costs of Facilities
- Transition Costs
- Attendance and Visitor-Generated Income
- Private and Government Funding

It is the responsibility of the Toronto Zoo's Board of Management to review and consider options and recommendations from the commissioned studies and staff recommendations.

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Toronto Zoo is a CAZA and AZA accredited institution. Events are 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**

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