



For Immediate release

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**TORONTO ZOO AND CUPE LOCAL 1600
REACH CONTRACT SETTLEMENT**

Thursday, May 20, 2010. Toronto, Ontario. The Toronto Zoo and CUPE Local 1600 today announce that labour negotiations have successfully concluded. The Toronto Zoo Board of Management ratified the agreement today. Union members ratified the agreement on Monday May 17, 2010.

The contract offers a 5% increase in wages over three years, plus productivity improvements resulting from an increase in hours from 35 to 40 hours per week for office staff. This settlement is fair for both parties and recognizes the financial reality facing the Zoo and the City. Over 400 full-time and seasonal workers who work in various areas of the Zoo including animal care, maintenance, transit, horticulture, animal health, animal nutrition, guest services, membership, custodial, materials collection, purchasing, finance, graphics, exhibit design, public relations, education, retail and rides are represented by CUPE Local 1600.

“I commend both of the bargaining teams for resolving issues and reaching a positive outcome for all of our staff” comments Zoo Board Chair, Councillor Raymond Cho. “We’re happy to now move forward with all of the wonderful programs and experiences that we provide for the 1.4 million visitors to the Zoo each year.”

The Zoo is open all year round but summer features include the new award-winning Tundra Trek, the interactive Sharks at Stingray Bay exhibit and the return of Drum Café, an amazing drumming experience for the whole family in the Zoo’s outdoor Waterside Theatre. Also new for 2010 is the installation of the “Conservation Carousel” ride featuring 30 hand-carved animals for kids to enjoy and newly renovated restaurants offering a menu of delicious, healthy food and beverages.