

President and CEO Annual General Meeting 2022 Report to the Community

Bonjour,

Thank you for being here with us today as we look back on our 2021 successes.

By the numbers

2021 was an exceptional year. Despite the ongoing pandemic and corresponding restrictions, our 473 staff and 440 volunteers delivered magic on bigger levels than ever before:

- We welcomed over 1.1 million visitors to the zoo through day visits, evening programs and 74 event days;
- 7,208 donors invested in the future with their financial support;
- 76,788 members supported our critical conservation work locally and globally through their purchase of a membership;
- We delivered Conservation Education programs to 11,360 students and adults;
- We hosted 210 team builders for corporate teams desperate to reconnect and do good work together;
- We unveiled Dinosaurs Awakened, the animated dinosaurs, much to the delight of visitors young and old;
- We revitalized a Calgary treasure, 'Dinny', and created Brawn Family Foundation's Dinny's Green;
- We held the most summer camps in our history: 91 (or 1,679 attendees); and
- The 25th anniversary edition of ZOOLIGHTS welcomed 106,000 visitors, including 3 sell-out nights and numerous innovative enhancements such as opening Prehistoric Park for a light show and light up hippo and whooping cranes.

The animals we love

We provided exceptional care to over 4,400 animals across 118 species at the zoo and are recognized around the world for excellence in animal care, health and welfare.

We said goodbye to several animals that will forever remain in our hearts, and we welcomed new family members including king penguin chicks, Humboldt penguin chicks, rocky mountain goats and a woodland caribou calf. We also welcomed Amur tiger, Samha, home. We loved him first and we were delighted when the SSP recommendation saw him paired with "Sarma", our resident Amur tigress.

Jane Goodall Act

We host 35 endangered species at the zoo and are engaged in 46 Species Survival Programs. Our responsibility to animal welfare extends beyond the animals we love and care for at the Calgary Zoo. We feel compelled to ensure ALL animals under human care receive exceptional care in Canada – not just the ones we host at Canada's AZA accredited zoos.

This is why, I, along with leaders from other AZA Canada members, in collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute, championed a thoughtful review and repositioning of the Jane Goodall Act. The bill contains new legal protections for captive big cats, bears, wolves, seals, sea lions, walruses, certain monkeys and dangerous reptiles. The bill will also phase out elephant captivity. First reading of the bill took place last month and there is much work to be done still by our government to ensure it gets passed. It must be passed. Animals all over Canada that don't live in accredited zoos are depending on us for their well-being.

Conservation work

From charming rodents to elusive insects, we are building hope for biodiversity. In 2021, our conservation activity returned to more normal levels. We released 303 individual animals into the wild as part of conservation translocation initiatives including: 24 greater sage-grouse, 245 northern leopard frogs, 20 fishers and 14 Vancouver Island marmots. We published 10 high-impact scientific journal papers and chapters in leader conservation and science publications.

Our team of 21 full-time scientists, 2 part-time scientists, 20 part-time seasonal technicians and soon to be an additional 6 staff scientists are focused on returning to more normal levels in 2022 and I can't wait to see what they achieve!

Wildlife Conservation Centre

A dream 40-years in the making will be unveiled next month: our new conservation centre!

Over the last 2 years, we built a new 330-acre wildlife conservation centre which will feature:

- Improved animal habitats for burrowing owls, Vancouver Island marmots, whooping cranes and Northern leopard frogs;
- Expanded and purpose-built paddocks, pastures and shelter for hoof stock; and
- Accommodations for resident animal care staff and a veterinary clinic.

As the only zoo in Canada with an off-site breeding facility, we are committed to taking on the immense challenges that species face, using science to sustain threatened wildlife in Canada and around the world. This state of the art facility is a step forward, providing the right level of seclusion and ample space for us to expand our conservation programs.

Things are getting Wilder

For more than 30-years, the zoo has led critical wildlife conservation work through the Calgary Zoo, the rural wildlife conservation centre as well as across Canada and around the world. The journey to become Canada's leader in wildlife conservation now includes the Wilder Institute following the global launch late last year.

We believe we have a tremendous opportunity to inspire and educate our community on how each of us can make a difference for wildlife here in Canada and around the world.

We don't believe in inevitability. We believe in taking action. The Wilder Institute is the next step in our journey to restore balance between wildlife and human life.

What's ahead

As I look ahead through 2022 and beyond, I've very excited!

- We are hopeful that we have seen the last of the COVID restrictions and impacts to operations.
- We have welcomed a critically endangered western lowland gorilla infant (a girl) to the troop and more zoo babies are expected soon!
- The grand opening of our new wildlife conservation centre is next month! And we will be moving conservation species to their beautiful new habitats over the summer and into the fall, around critical breeding times.
- A \$15.5 million investment from the Alberta government, the generous donation of \$8.5 million from the Taylor Family Foundation, substantial support from our City of Calgary and Prairie Economic Development partners; shovels are in the ground and our ambitious Canadian Wilds Redevelopment project is underway, including: creating a refreshed space for our North American river otters, expanding bison and caribou habitats, moving the whooping cranes to a more appropriate space and creating the Taylor Family Foundation polar bear sanctuary for rescued polar bears to live quality lives.
- We will be surprising and delighting our visitors all summer with a daily festival of parades, music, dancing, conservation education and animal moments. No two days will be the same.
- The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo family continues to grow. We will be welcoming several new individuals, including a male Hartmann's Mountain zebra and male snow leopard, to inspire people young and old to protect wildlife and wild spaces.

In closing, thank you to our amazing employees and volunteers for your passion, dedication, and commitment. Thank you to our donors for your support when we needed it most. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our community – your support means the world to us.