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## **2004 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE: Toronto Zoo Governance**

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2004-02-27

### **BAC Issue:**

The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to the request from the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting on February 18, 2004 raised related to the suggestion of *the Toronto Zoo jurisdiction being transferred to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)*.

### **Background:**

The existing management and land use structure of the Toronto Zoo was created in 1978 as a result of the tripartite agreement between The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto (City), The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Board of Management of The Metropolitan Toronto Zoo.

Essentially, the tripartite agreement was initiated by the City to transfer the management responsibilities of the Zoo to the Board of Management of the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo from the City and land use from the TRCA. It was necessary to transfer use of the land due to the fact that part of the land on which the Toronto Zoo is located is owned by the City and the remainder is owned by the TRCA. The designated use of the lands as a zoological park had previously been agreed to by the TRCA and City. Management of the Zoo was the responsibility of the City in accordance with provincial legislation under The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act. A 1978 amendment to the Act resulted in the transfer of management responsibilities to the newly created Board of Management. This Act has been amended over time to its current form as the City of Toronto Act (1997).

### **Key Points:**

The Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority and the Toronto Zoo operate completely different businesses at separate locations. The suggestion to combine the operations is driven by the concept of sharing of the cost of operating the Toronto Zoo with the Regional Municipalities of the GTA in addition to the City of Toronto. The rationale behind shared funding from the Regions within the GTA is that the Toronto Zoo draws attendance from the surrounding regions as well as from the City of Toronto.

### **Conclusion:**

Perhaps the issue would be better broached in a direct manner and be addressed directly at a meeting of the GTA mayors. In fact attendance from the rest of Ontario, beyond the GTA, is significant, and perhaps the Province of Ontario should also be invited to participate in the discussions.