
2005 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE: Capital and Operating Funding for Toronto Zoo

Issue/Background:

During the 2004 budget process two recommendations were approved concerning future non-City funding for the Toronto Zoo.

As part of the Operating Budget approval it was recommended that the governance model of the Toronto Zoo be referred to the Mayor's Office and the Chief Administrator's Office to develop a strategy in communication with other municipalities; the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and possibly the Provincial government to provide a different funding model, and report thereon to the Policy and Finance Committee.

As part of the Capital Budget approval it was recommended that the General Manager of the Toronto Zoo, with the assistance of the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, develop an approach to the Zoo's capital financing requirements and its need to secure other significant non-City sources of funding, particularly in light of the \$30 million North Site Redevelopment Project, and report to the Budget Advisory Committee prior to the beginning of the 2005 Capital Budget process.

Key Point(s):

- The work plan of the Chief Administrator's Office includes a governance review of the Toronto Zoo. However, it is not anticipated that this review, which has yet to take place, will develop specific solutions to the Zoo's ongoing financing pressures. Rather it could present new possibilities for future relationships for the Zoo.
- The need to involve other sources of financial support for the Zoo will clearly require work with various stakeholder groups. Included in this effort is the development of an Education Centre, for which funding is included in the recommended 2005 Capital Budget for the Zoo.
- Although efforts to review and diversify the Zoo's sources of support have been initiated, results are not yet available. An approach to the financing of the \$29 million North Site Redevelopment Project will be required Prior to consideration of the 2006 Capital Budget for the Toronto Zoo. The 2005 Capital Budget includes a recommendation for a report on this issue by June 2005.

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