

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

2017 was a momentous year in the history of the Calgary Zoo. From lemurs to northern leopard frogs, there was no shortage of enthusiasm to protect animals here at home and around the world.

As a wildlife conservation organization, we were exceptionally focused on finding new ways to make a difference. This included striking new partnerships, trying new conservation tools, and linking our research work in Canada to the far reaches of Africa. Our team was and is pushing the boundaries to ensure that wildlife and wild places remain sustainable and viable for the future.

Our focus never waned from our goal of being Canada's leader in wildlife conservation and our commitment to making a difference drove our efforts such as:

- Opening our newest barrier-free habitat, Land of Lemurs and introducing a new species to our community while integrating a robust community conservation program that will make a real difference in Madagascar;
- We advanced our northern leopard frog conservation project by developing a breeding program with the hope of eventually releasing frogs back into the wild. This reintroduction breeding program is only the second of its kind in Canada, which we are confident will make a difference for this Western Canadian species; and
- Teaming up with one of Alberta's most beloved conservationists to create the *Brian Keating Conservation Endowment*, in honour of Keating's nearly 30 years of service to the Calgary Zoo and his efforts as a public advocate for wildlife.

Last year we achieved some historic milestones to protect endangered species:

- For the first time in Alberta, 15 burrowing owls were released into the wild last spring, thanks to our head-starting program. This was a major achievement for our highly acclaimed Conservation Research team supported by our amazing Animal Care professionals.
- It was the best year ever for our whooping crane conservation program with all seven of our pairs either laying eggs or incubating eggs – a first for the Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre (DWCC), which is Canada's only facility dedicated to breeding this endangered bird for release into the wild.
- Last fall we celebrated the hatching of 50 greater sage-grouse chicks, the first reproduced in human care in Canada. This significant achievement is an important step forward to protect one of our country's most vulnerable species.

In addition to taking direct action to save wildlife, our mission is to inspire action by others. In 2017, for the first time, at two special "conservation action stations" more than 42,000 visitors learned how to protect wildlife by planting pollinator-friendly gardens and exercising choice as consumers to buy rainforest-friendly products. We believe that even small actions by many can create big outcomes.

In reflecting on the past year, I have such an admiration for the passion and support of our visitors and members, sponsors and donors, volunteers and employees; it is clear the Calgary Zoo is a special place, with a special mission. Most important, our remarkable success in 2017 in saving at-risk species proves again that there is hope for the future of wildlife and wild places. Our conservation work is grounded in collaboration: advancing knowledge, connecting people and creating first-hand experiences. Together we are making a difference.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, volunteers, members, donors, sponsors and other supporters who help to propel us forward as Canada's leader in wildlife conservation.

Merci,



Dr. Clément Lanthier  
President & CEO  
Calgary Zoo