



Restoring balance between wildlife and human life, together.

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The Board Chair's Annual General Meeting Report to the Community

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your unwavering support of our critical conservation work, both locally and globally.

2023 was a record-breaking year for your Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. Our collaborative conservation programs saw us assisting 27 species-at-risk through 18 collaborative conservation projects spanning across borders, while providing exemplary care for over 4,000 animal residents at the zoo. What's more, we engaged with an astounding 1.5 million visitors, fostering awareness about wildlife conservation and the importance of accredited zoos, like us.

We have kept up this momentum in 2024 by continuing to explore new ways to share our important conservation stories with our ever-growing communities on zoo grounds and beyond. In February, delegates from your Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo journeyed to Ottawa to unveil the Wilder Canada Action Plan. This groundbreaking strategy targets the urgent issue of species-at-risk across our nation. Through this partnership, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo would be tasked with spearheading crucial conservation translocation programs for many at-risk plant and animal species in Canada.

After months of collaborative work with management, your Board of Directors will approve a refreshed organizational purpose, vision, values and strategic priorities that will set the path for your Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo to its centennial in 2029.

Earlier this year, President and CEO Dr. Clément Lanthier announced his intention to retire in 2024. The board has commenced an international search and is taking a thoughtful process to identify a leader to take the organization to the centennial and beyond.

In closing, thank you to our senior leadership team, staff, and volunteers for your tireless work in caring for the animals at our facilities. Because of your hard work, we are seeing and inspiring changes locally and around the world to protect wildlife and wild places.

Thank you to our donors, members, and sponsors for your generous support of the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. We could not do this important work without you.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to my fellow Board members, it is both an honor and a privilege to collaborate with you. Your steadfast commitment to the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo serves as a constant source of inspiration for me!



With a strong track record behind us and a forward-looking strategy, I am confident that the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is well-positioned to help restore the balance between human life and wildlife in 2024 and beyond.

Thank you for supporting wildlife conservation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Conkie', written in a cursive style.

Barbara Conkie
Board Chair
The Calgary Zoological Society

