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CHAIR, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE TORONTO ZOO  
PRESIDENT, GOOD ROADS BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

**June 11, 2026**

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin  
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
Canada, K1A 0A6

**Subject: Support for Federal Investment in Canada's Wildlife Cryobank**

Dear Minister Dabrusin,

On behalf of the Board of Directors at the Toronto Zoo, I am writing to express my support for federal investment in **Canada's Wildlife Cryobank** through Budget 2026.

I understand the Cryobank is seeking \$2.5 million per year for five years, starting in 2026-27, to expand into a National Centre of Excellence for Conservation Cryobanking, headquartered at the Toronto Zoo and with provincial/territorial hubs. I believe that investment is well deserved, timely, and proportionate to the scale of the opportunity, and I am pleased to support it.

A National Centre of Excellence for Conservation Cryobanking would strengthen federal endangered species recovery efforts, safeguard Canada's animal genetic diversity in perpetuity under a sovereign scientific platform, create Canadian jobs in high-end science and reproductive health fields, and provide the federal government with a practical tool to advance its biodiversity goals – including those in the *A Force of Nature* strategy.

This is a proven technology being managed by leading Canadian scientists. The Cryobank already preserves living genetic material from some Canadian wildlife, which – coupled with Artificial Reproduction Technologies developed by the Zoo's Wildlife Science team – supports ongoing conservation and species recovery initiatives. With federal support, the Cryobank can grow into a truly national platform preserving the genetic diversity of all Canadian species.

Federal investment would also deliver broader benefits for Canada. It would create Canadian jobs in biotechnology, foster new Canadian IP, train the next generation of conservation scientists in Canada, and position Canada as a world leader in wildlife conservation.

Expanding the Cryobank would give Canada a practical, Canadian-made tool to preserve our wildlife genetic diversity in a sovereign manner and help halt and reverse biodiversity loss, while delivering economic and innovation benefits for the country.

Finally, federal funding would also catalyze other partner contributions to this important work, including a commitment from the Consecon Foundation to match federal funding up to **\$2 million over five years**, along with in-kind support from Toronto Zoo. Moreover, the National Centre model is committed to strong partnerships with other conservation organizations, Indigenous communities, regional partners, and the post-secondary education sector.

In conclusion, this is a modest and high-impact investment. For **\$2.5 million per year over five years**, Canada can strengthen a proven conservation asset, give endangered species a better chance of recovery, and capture unique economic and innovation opportunities.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to support federal investment in Canada's Wildlife Cryobank through Budget 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Ainslie  
Deputy Mayor, City of Toronto Councillor, Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood  
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo