

## **CAZA ENTERPRISES PROVIDES WORLD CLASS EXPERTISE FOR ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**

The Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) is a non-profit organization that promotes the welfare of animals and encourages the advancement and improvement of education, conservation and science. Its 24 members – Canada's accredited zoos and aquariums – are an irreplaceable link to the natural world of animals and habitat for millions of Canadians.

CAZA members are deeply involved in the effort to protect and preserve our biodiversity through programs of education, animal management, scientific study and field conservation. Overall, CAZA institutions nurture, protect and care for more than 100,000 animals among 2000 species. Often these animals are the last representatives of endangered species that survive because of zoo and aquarium captive animal management programs.

Today's leading zoos and aquariums are committed to the highest standards of care for their animals, increasingly focus on conservation, research and education, and provide first class facilities for their visitors and staff.

The Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) has a long tradition of excellence in all aspects of its members' operations and maintains accreditation standards that are at the forefront of the evolving knowledge and expertise in the zoo and aquarium field. CAZA is now offering this expertise on a contracted basis to clients in Canada and around the world who are seeking to position themselves at the forefront of the industry.

As the zoo and aquarium industry evolves, and as interest groups are increasingly pressing for more rigid standards in all aspects of their operations, governments at all levels are re-examining legislation and regulations that apply in this field. Several Canadian jurisdictions are proposing tougher standards for all zoos and aquariums, and those businesses intending to meet these changing requirements will need expert assistance in upgrading their facilities and operations. CAZA has organized its new consulting service specifically to meet this emerging need.

Existing facilities needing to upgrade their operations, organizations planning a start up, or government authorities that need authoritative advice with respect to zoo and aquarium standards can now benefit from the acquired knowledge and the renowned expertise of CAZA members. The Association maintains an inventory of experts with knowledge ranging from the highly specialized in a specific field to that of senior generalists with an overview of the zoo and aquarium business acquired over a lifetime career.

Depending on your needs CAZA can assemble a team to meet a wide spectrum of requirements. In some cases, what is needed is a simple consultation in order to provide generalized advice, in other cases you may require an entire range of planning services to take a project from concept to delivery. CAZA can adapt its offering to meet that range of needs, or anything in between.

Based on CAZA's accreditation program, which was comprehensively reviewed and upgraded in 2005, we are able to bring clients at any stage of development to the forefront of the leading standards in the industry. Our standards define requirements in every aspect of the operations of a zoo or aquarium, ranging from animal care and nutrition to security, visitor facilities, involvement in research, conservation, and education. These standards are enforced through the CAZA Accreditation Commission, which draws on the leading experts from Canada's top zoos and aquariums, and it is these same experts who are now being made available on a consulting basis through CAZA Enterprises.

CAZA has long provided a mentoring program for its members, or prospective members. This service – now also being made available on a contract basis to non-CAZA members, provides a quick assessment of needs for a client institution – essentially as an overview of improvements that are required. This overview report can serve as the starting point for a client, and can lead to an in-depth analysis followed by a full-fledged development and implementation strategy should the client decide to proceed in that direction.

Interested clients can learn more about CAZA and its expertise by consulting [www.caza.ca](http://www.caza.ca) or by contacting the CAZA National Office at the address listed below. A full package of information about CAZA and its record of achievement in all fields of the zoo and aquarium industry will be provided on request.

For further information:

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