



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

- For Immediate Release -

May 11, 2009

BLIZZARD aka "SPIRIT BUFFALO" MAKES HIS DEPARTURE Bison to return to Winnipeg

Calgary, AB – Calgarians who wish to see Blizzard, the rare white bison who made his debut at the Calgary Zoo at the beginning of December last year, will have only a short time to do so before he is scheduled to depart. Blizzard will leaving the Calgary Zoo on **Tuesday, May 19** and returning to his home at the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg.

Blizzard, who's visit to Calgary was of special significance to First Nations people, was given the traditional aboriginal name of "Spirit Buffalo" in a naming ceremony on December 8th by local aboriginal leader Maggie Black Kettle in honour of his arrival to the Calgary Zoo.

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The Calgary Zoo is part of a professional, accredited association and member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) comprised of caring, trusted experts committed to ensuring that many endangered and threatened species are part of the world's future. AZA and CAZA advocate on behalf of animals with a unified and consistent voice, and collaborate with others committed to their long-term survival. The Calgary Zoo participates in many Species Survival Plans (SSP), a network among accredited institutions designed to breed endangered species in captivity to ensure the best possible genetic diversity and maintain healthy populations in human care. Through our conservation, education and research programs, many animals in our care play an essential role in the survival of their species in the wild.

The Calgary Zoological Society is a charitable organization. Charitable Registration #118824192 RR0001