

Valley Zoo and Catholic School District win CAZA Award

October 7, 2016

The Edmonton Valley Zoo and the Edmonton Catholic School District have been awarded the prestigious Eleanore Oakes Award for the 100 Voices Pre-Kindergarten partnership program located at the zoo.

The award was presented to the Edmonton Valley Zoo at the annual Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums conference. Presented annually to one accredited organization, the Eleanore Oakes Award recognizes excellence in education, exhibit design, or significant contributions to the zoo and aquarium field.

"The children and staff of the 100 Voices program bring joy to the Valley Zoo everyday. They truly embody the Zoo's vision of being a special place that inspires love and learning of animals and nature," said Denise Prefontaine, Director, Edmonton Valley Zoo. "Witnessing the children grow in their early education learning and their love for the animals has been a rewarding experience for everyone, including our staff. We are proud of this partnership with the Edmonton Catholic School District and look forward to continuing to grow together.

The only program of its kind operating in a Canadian zoo, 100 Voices at the Edmonton Valley Zoo offers an innovative and active learning environment for pre-kindergarten children ages three to four. In addition to high quality early learning instruction, children have the opportunity to explore the zoo and learn about animal care from veterinarians, zookeepers and interpreters who share their passion for enriching the lives of animals at the zoo.

"The 100 Voices program at the Valley Zoo is successful because of the amazing partnership we share with the City of Edmonton," said Kris Hodgins, District Principal, Genesis School. "Both partners work together to provide authentic learning experiences by following the lead of the children's interests. Edmonton Catholic Schools is delighted to be part of such an innovative approach to engaging children with diverse needs in alternative educational and real world environments," Hodgins added.

This is the second year for the program at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. 100 Voices teaches classes in many Edmonton locations, including various recreation centres and elementary schools, the John Janzen Nature Centre and the Muttart Conservatory.

For more information:

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[100 Voices Program](#)

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