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MEDIA ADVISORY

- For Immediate Release -

June 13, 2008

Orphaned grizzly bears have a new home in Saskatoon

Calgary, AB – Parks Canada, the Calgary Zoo and Edmonton Valley Zoo are pleased to advise that Koda and Mistaya, two Grizzly bear cubs orphaned in 2004, have a new home together at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo. The bears were transferred on June 12 accompanied by the Calgary Zoo's curator.

Mistaya is the sole surviving cub from Bear 66 who died in Banff National Park. He remained in the wild until it became clear that he could not survive without intervention. Koda was an orphaned cub from the Jasper/Hinton area who after his rescue was nurtured by zookeepers at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Both cubs were then paired at the Calgary Zoo while the search for a suitable permanent home took place.

"We have watched these two cubs grow up together and it is really wonderful to have found a home for them at an accredited institution in Western Canada where the brotherly relationship that has developed can continue," said Bob Peel, Curator at the Calgary Zoo. "They will be missed in Calgary, but this is a happy result for these bears."

The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo is just putting the finishing touches on a large new enclosure for the two young bears that includes a pond and provides lots of space for them to continue digging, wrestling and romping.

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“We are absolutely thrilled to have these very healthy and active young bears join us in Saskatoon,” said John Moran, Facility Manager for the Saskatoon Zoo. “They are a welcome addition and will continue to be ambassadors for their species through our visitor education programs.”

- 30 -

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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

