May 8, 2017

Max Hollins  
Committee Clerk  
Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans  
Senate of Canada  
Room 1035, Chambers Building

Dear Mr. Hollins,

On behalf of Canada’s Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA), I would like to thank the Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans for allowing us the opportunity to speak to our concerns regarding Bill S-203 on March 28, 2017.

The Committee had a number of questions at that hearing which I committed to providing answer to. Below is an overview of those questions with some responsive information:

**How often must CAZA corrective action be done?**

As a peer based membership organization we are only as strong as our weakest link. It is in our members’ best interests to ensure that their peers are upholding the highest standards of care. There is an expectation that violations of policy, ethics and welfare are dealt with in a timely and effective manner regardless of the size and resources of the member.

No one cares, worries, and acts upon allegations of poor animal care more than the members of CAZA. It cuts to the very essence of who we are and what we stand for. Our proactive accreditation test challenges us to do and be better and is based upon incremental improvements from some the very best animal care expert practitioners in the world.

The majority of CAZA member institutions never have had to undergo CAZA’s established disciplinary mechanisms.

However, unfortunately in past years CAZA has had to invoke its ethics and compliance and progressive discipline procedures to deal with financial, operational, and animal welfare concerns involving a small number of members. As each year varies it is difficult to provide a statistic on the specific rate. However, I can assure you that in all cases corrective action was taken and the issue was resolved.
What is the number of peer reviewed journals based on research done out of CAZA facilities?

The Alliance of Marine Mammals Parks and Aquariums tracks marine mammal research. If the Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans requires this information, we can access it for them through the Vancouver Aquarium who is a member of the Alliance.

Can you provide copies of the two studies you referenced to the Committee?

You will find the following studies attached to this correspondence:

1. Assessing Exhibits for Learning in Science Centers: A Practical Tool by Chantal Barriault and David Pearson

2. Visitor Engagement and Learning Behaviour in Science Centre’s, Zoos and Aquaria by Chantal Lise Barriault

Can you provide statistics on belugas that have died due to human encroachment and climate change (excluding hunting)?

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans provides statistics on the effects of climate change and human encroachment on marine mammals on its website.

Can you provide information on the life expectancy of beluga whales in captivity?

The life expectancy for beluga whales in captivity is comparable to the wild. For example, in the five decades that Vancouver Aquarium has cared for beluga whales, they have had 17 belugas in total:

- 8 of the animals reached or exceeded the average life span (15yrs) of belugas as reported by DFO for animals living in Hudson Bay (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-espeses/profiles-profils/beluga-west-beluga-ouest-p-eng.html)

- 5 animals exceed 30 (twice the average life span)

- 1 animal was over 45

- 5 are still alive (2 are over 30)

If there is any further information that the Committee requires for the purpose of studying Bill S-203, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 613-627-3779 or sshafer@caza.ca
Warm regards,

[Signature]

Dr. Susan Shafer  
Executive Director  
Canada’s Accredited Zoos and Aquariums