

**Celebrate International Red Panda Day
this Weekend at the Assiniboine Park Zoo**

For immediate release: Winnipeg, September 14, 2022 – In honour of International Red Panda Day, Assiniboine Park Zoo is hosting **Red Panda Weekend** this Saturday and Sunday. People of all ages are invited to enjoy fun, family-friendly activities and learn about red pandas and red panda conservation.

Red pandas are found in the mountain forests of Nepal, India, Bhutan, China and Myanmar (Burma). According to the Red Panda Network, there may be as few as 2,500 red pandas remaining in the wild as their population has declined by over 50% in the past 20 years.

“Red pandas are an indicator of ecological health of the Eastern Himalayan Broadleaf Forest Ecoregion: one of our planet's biodiversity hotspots,” said Grant Furniss, Senior Director, Zoological Operations, Assiniboine Park Zoo. “Their conservation has huge impacts, when red pandas are protected, the entire area of forests and wildlife are preserved as well. We hope our Zoo visitors will learn about this amazing species and take action to support conservation efforts to protect red pandas from extinction.”

Red panda Zoo Chats with an animal care professional start at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at Toucan Ridge.

The following [Red Panda Weekend](#) activities will take place at the McFeetors Heavy Horse Centre from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18:

- **Red Panda Ranger Passports:** Complete Red Panda Weekend activities and earn stamps in your passport. Collect all the stamps to become a Red Panda Ranger.
- **Eco Plinko:** How can you reduce your environmental impact and help save red pandas? Answer some conservation questions for plinko chips.
- **Red Panda Adaptation Station:** Learn incredible facts about the amazing and adorable, red panda.
- **The Balance Challenge:** Is your balance as good as a red panda's? Test your skills on the balance beam.
- **Spot the Red Panda:** Red pandas are great at camouflaging in trees in their natural habitat. Can you spot them all in our photos?
- **Firefox Dunk Tank:** How much do you know about red pandas? Test your knowledge and get a slam dunk!
- **Selfie Station:** Take your picture in a red panda habitat-like setting.
- **Fundraising Activities:** With a donation to the Red Panda Network, you can have your face painted or receive a red panda decoration or button. The Red Panda Network works to conserve wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.

The Zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Red Panda Weekend activities are included with regular Zoo admission.

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For interviews and information requests, please contact:

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