



**LAURENTIAN  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

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**THE 2007 RRSP SEASON: LAURENTIAN BANK'S CHIEF ECONOMIST AND STRATEGIST TALKS ABOUT INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

**Montreal, February 19, 2007** – In this 2007 RRSP season, Mr. Carlos Leitao, Chief Economist and Strategist of Laurentian Bank of Canada, talks about the economic outlook and investment strategies. He singles out several basic principles to help investors make educated decisions with regard to their RRSP investment.

First and foremost, Carlos Leitao suggests that investors revise their investor profiles to confirm their medium-term goals and their level of risk tolerance. They should feel comfortable with the type of transactions made on their behalf.

Secondly, Mr. Leitao talks about the advantages of diversification, by geographic location and by business sector alike, to tap into the foreign stock market performance potential. As Canada's stock market, with focus on natural resources (metals and energy) and financial services, has been showing solid performance over the past several years and approaches its growth cycle peak, it is now time to consider other markets for investment.

**Diversification by Geographic Location**

Investors now have access to a wide range of foreign market investment products. The US economy should continue to generate interest, despite a slight slowdown that should ease in the second semester of 2007; large multinationals, especially those operating in exports, remain a sure value. The stocks of large European corporations now traded at very reasonable multiples can be a windfall. Asia is also a burgeoning market, with a vigorous rate of economic growth.

**Diversification by Business Sector**

Since the economic cycle involves shifts over time between periods of growth alternating with periods of stagnation, certain business sectors that showed less interesting returns in the past, after some time come back into light. Laurentian Bank's Chief Economist draws attention to such business sectors as health, more specifically pharmaceuticals, as well as consumer goods and high technology.

In summary, the macroeconomic outlook remains favorable: we expect no recession in the short and medium terms, and Asia continues to show strong growth. However, in Canada, we foresee a two-tiered economy, where provinces like Quebec and Ontario have to adjust to the slowdown in the manufacturing sector, and Western Canada, especially Alberta, is the driving force.

## **Dare to Grow**

Laurentian Bank of Canada is a Quebec banking institution operating across Canada, dedicated to meeting the financial needs of its clients through the excellence of its service, its simplicity and its proximity. The Bank serves individual consumers, small and medium-sized businesses as well as, through B2B Trust, independent financial advisors. It also provides full-service brokerage solutions through the Laurentian Bank Securities subsidiary. Laurentian Bank is well established in the Province of Quebec, operating the third largest retail branch network and is a performing player in specific market segments elsewhere in the country. Laurentian Bank of Canada has over \$17 billion in balance sheet assets and close to \$15 billion in assets under administration. Founded in 1846, the Bank employs more than 3,200 people. Its common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: LB). For more information, please visit [www.laurentianbank.ca](http://www.laurentianbank.ca).

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