



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK SECURITIES LAUNCHES A NEW BUSINESS UNIT UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF SIMON LUSSIER

Montreal, May 9, 2006 – It is with great enthusiasm that Mr. Michel C. Trudeau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Laurentian Bank Securities, announces that Mr. Simon Lussier is joining his team as Senior Vice-President, Institutional Equity. Mr. Lussier will head the new business unit launched by Laurentian Bank Securities, specializing in institutional brokerage services in equity markets.

Through Institutional Equity, the organization will serve institutional investors with regard to all aspects of equity markets. The new business unit will offer a complete range of services, such as research, sales, trading and investment banking, with a particular focus on the market of small and medium-sized businesses. With its ongoing business and solid reputation among institutional investors in the fixed income market, Laurentian Bank Securities would use its know-how to support and develop the new sector.

“Under the leadership of Mr. Lussier, with his impressive experience and enviable reputation in the market, the new line of business will build on solid foundations. Thanks to the growth potential of this segment, we will diversify our revenue, while enhancing our offer of products and services,” says Mr. Michel C. Trudeau. Based in Montreal, the team of Mr. Lussier will also be supported by a team at the Laurentian Bank Securities’ office in Toronto

A strategic milestone in the growth of Laurentian Bank Securities

This new phase in the development of Laurentian Bank Securities marks a strategic milestone. In the last two years, the firm has allocated significant resources to expand its network of points of service and to improve its offer of products, including such initiatives as opening three new office locations in the last six months and recruiting numerous investment advisors.

Founded in 1991, Laurentian Bank Securities is renowned for its research service, trading desks and retail services. With the expertise of some 175 professionals working at its Montreal head office and 13 offices across Quebec and Ontario, the firm, wholly owned by Laurentian Bank of Canada, has close to \$2 billion in assets under management. Laurentian Bank’s common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: LB). For more information, visit Laurentian Bank Securities Web site at www.vmbi.ca.

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