



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK CELEBRATES ITS 160TH ANNIVERSARY

Montreal, May 26, 2006 – It is with great pride that Laurentian Bank of Canada celebrates today its 160th anniversary. Founded in 1846, Laurentian Bank, a financial institution with a strong positioning in the province of Quebec, remains loyal to its original business approach: staying close to people. Today, Laurentian Bank continues its growth strategy with focus on excellence of service, supported by the third largest branch network in Quebec. The Bank also evolves as a performing player in specific market segments across Canada.

“At this stage in the development of our organization, we hold the right course, towards the future: we are certain about our destination,” says Mr. Raymond McManus, President and Chief Executive Officer of Laurentian Bank. “Building on sound financial foundations, the Bank uses a conservative management approach with focus on long-term results, which is most promising for our clients, our employees and our shareholders.”

The Laurentian Bank difference

What sets Laurentian Bank apart is respect for its clients and continuous attention to their needs. It also means promoting clear and easy solutions in this highly complex world of financial services. Tell it like it is. Share the values of a company that continues its evolution, open to collective and individual growth.

For individuals, being a client of Laurentian Bank means having access to excellent services tailored to their specific needs. Laurentian Bank’s financial services boutiques – just like the Espresso Bank-Café concept – are the proof of its innovative spirit. The Bank is constantly seeking ways to push the boundaries of client experience. As part of this approach, the Bank has also adopted a family-centred approach, which in particular includes reserving areas for children at some of its branches and supporting events that promote family activities.

For companies, and more specifically for SMEs, Laurentian Bank is a source of solutions. Its personalized service, its line of competitive products such as **MAXAFFAIRES**, and its ongoing efficient and effective support make this organization stand out from other banking institutions. And as always, service excellence, simplicity and proximity are at the heart of our actions.

Laurentian Bank also serves investors, by providing full service brokerage services through its Laurentian Bank Securities subsidiary, as well as the financial community, by offering products and solutions designed for independent financial advisors through its B2B Trust subsidiary. Moreover, the Bank provides a row of private banking services featuring a highly personalized approach and service.

What makes up Laurentian Bank’s strength: 3,000 dedicated employees ready to respond to the financial and banking needs of their clients, with efficiency and integrity, at 157 bank branches, 28 commercial banking centres and 14 brokerage offices.

A clear vision to build the future

Laurentian Bank's vision is to be the indisputable third largest financial institution in Quebec and a performing player in specific market segments across Canada. To achieve this goal, Laurentian Bank has identified the following key values to guide it in all its actions:

- **Passion for client interests:** Because our clients are our *raison d'être*, the Bank promotes a quality approach with a personal touch to be there for them at every step of their life, and designs initiatives with the goal to meet and exceed their expectations.
- **Simplicity:** Because life is complicated enough, the Bank's employees always seek simple and streamlined solutions.
- **Entrepreneurship:** To promote the development and growth of the Bank, its employees are encouraged to have the mind-set of a business owner, within the scope of the Bank's policies and principles.
- **Integrity:** The employees maintain their commitment to integrity and rigour in order to earn the trust of their clients and of the shareholders.
- **Teamwork:** Since the success of Laurentian Bank depends on the collective efforts of its employees, the Bank pools and harnesses the efforts, expertise, know-how and creativity of all its employees.

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 \$16 billion in balance sheet assets and close to \$15 billion in assets under administration. Founded in 1846, the Bank employs more than 3,000 people. Its common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: LB). For more information, please visit www.laurentianbank.ca.

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