



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

FRANÇOIS DESJARDINS, CEO OF B2B TRUST, A SUBSIDIARY OF LAURENTIAN BANK, RECEIVES AN ARISTA AWARD

Montreal, May 2, 2008 – Laurentian Bank is pleased to announce that the President and CEO of its subsidiary B2B Trust, François Desjardins, received the Arista Award yesterday in the category of "Jeune cadre du Québec".

Réjean Robitaille, President and CEO of Laurentian Bank, congratulated him on behalf of all employees of the Bank and its subsidiaries: "François is an incredible corporate leader who knows, despite his young age, how to move the Bank and its pan-Canadian subsidiary B2B Trust considerably forward. His past and present colleagues value his determination and strength of character, and especially his friendly personality and cooperative spirit that is prevalent in his actions.

François Desjardins started working at the Bank in 1991, and climbed up the ladder to become a high-level manager. Over the years that followed, he was promoted to different positions, with increasing responsibilities. From 1995 to 1999, he was something of a trailblazer when he developed the Bank's telebanking services. In 1999, at the age of 29, he became the youngest vice-president at the Laurentian Bank, having the responsibility of all online financial services.

Since 2004, François Desjardins is at the head of B2B Trust, the largest subsidiary of Laurentian Bank, established in Toronto, generating a third of the Bank's revenues. B2B Trust has a credit department with more than \$3.5 billion, a total of \$5.4 billion in deposit securities and employs more than 240 people, especially in Toronto, where its headquarters are located, but also in business development offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. The company meets the needs of the approximately 15,000 full-service brokers, financial advisors and planners throughout Canada with its extensive line of financial products and services. B2B Trust is recognized as the leading supplier of wholesale deposit products in Canada, and the top third-party supplier of investment and RRSP loans in Canada.

Under the guidance of François Desjardins, B2B Trust signed 16 distribution partnership agreements with the largest financial services companies in Canada, including Fidelity Investments Canada and AIM Trimark. He is behind the phenomenal growth of the flagship product for investment loans, including the 380% revenue increase since he took the helm. Through his leadership, B2B Trust's contribution to Laurentian Bank's profitability has more than doubled over the last three years.

The "Jeune cadre du Québec" Award, given by the Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal, shows support for a young person working as a manager within a company or a public, community, parapublic or not-for-profit organization. Since 1977, the provincial ARISTA competition has recognized and showcased the success of young business people – managers, professionals, entrepreneurs or independent workers – in Quebec. It is the most important annual event of the Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal.

About Laurentian Bank

Laurentian Bank of Canada is a banking institution operating across Canada and offering its clients diversified financial services. Distinguishing itself through excellence in service, as well as through its simplicity and proximity, the Bank serves individual consumers and small and medium-sized businesses. The Bank also offers its products to a wide network of independent financial intermediaries through B2B Trust, as well as full-service brokerage solutions through Laurentian Bank Securities.

Laurentian Bank is well established in the Province of Quebec, operating the third-largest retail branch network. Elsewhere throughout Canada, it operates in specific market segments where it holds an enviable position. Laurentian Bank of Canada has more than \$18 billion in balance sheet assets and more than \$15 billion in assets under administration. Founded in 1846, the Bank employs close to 3,400 people.

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