



LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

**EMPLOYEES OF 120 LAURENTIAN BANK BRANCHES TAKE ACTION
BY ORGANIZING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
to support the cause of *La grande guignolée des médias***

Montreal, December 7, 2005 – Laurentian Bank of Canada, joining *La grande guignolée des médias* for the second year as a *friend* of the event, is happy to announce that its employees throughout the Province of Quebec redouble their efforts and initiatives to contribute even more to the success of this fund-raiser. Nearly 120 branches will organize special activities during the day of *La grande guignolée des médias*.

Laurentian Bank's employees responded with great enthusiasm to the appeal of *La grande guignolée des médias*. Fifty branches will set up additional drop-off sites in the nearby streets, making life easier for people wishing to donate to this noble cause. Some twenty branches invited neighbourhood day-care centres to bring their kids over to donate food items. Close to 1,000 children are expected at these branches. Each of them will receive a little gift in exchange for his/her contribution. Moreover, forty other branches will put up cheerful decorations on the occasion of the big food drive.

A new drop-off site at 1981 McGill College Avenue

This year, Laurentian Bank has organized another drop-off site in front of its Head Office building, at 1981 McGill College Avenue. The celebration will include various activities hosted by the Bank's employees and will be attended by media representatives and official spokespersons for *La grande guignolée des médias* throughout the day. All other corporate offices of the Bank will also hold special events.

"We are thrilled to see how passionate and enthusiastic our employees are about *La grande guignolée des médias*. They have organized close to 75 local celebrations. It clearly shows the commitment of our employees to their communities and proves their determination to contribute to the well-being of our society. From Montreal to Sept-Îles, going through Laval, Blainville, Mascouche, Vaudreuil, Montérégie, Quebec, Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean and Sherbrooke, our employees spare no time and no effort to make this day a great success. Laurentian Bank is delighted to be part of this unique event that brings together and mobilizes Quebec's businesses, media and citizens," said Mr. Réjean Robitaille, Senior Executive Vice-President, Retail and Commercial Financial Services of Laurentian Bank.

In addition to these special projects, all Laurentian Bank branches accept money and non-perishable donations throughout the duration of the food drive, until December 23rd.

Every year, Laurentian Bank supports various organizations recognized for the excellence of their undertakings and contributing to the well-being of our society. Thus, it participates in the development of the communities where it is present, on the economic, social, community-life, sports and cultural levels. This involvement also finds expression in the active and personal contribution of its managers and employees.

About Laurentian Bank

Founded in 1846, Laurentian Bank ranks seventh among Canadian Schedule I banks, with assets in excess of \$16 billion and close to \$15 billion in assets under management. The Bank offers highly competitive products and superior personalized service to meet the banking and financial needs of individuals, small- and medium-sized businesses and independent financial advisors. The Bank's common shares are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (ticker symbol: LB). The address of the Bank's website is www.laurentianbank.ca.

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