



LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

**FOUR LAURENTIAN BANK BRANCHES WILL
OFFER MONEY TRANSFER OF WESTERN UNION**

Montreal, December 17, 2004 – Laurentian Bank has announced an agreement with Western Union. The Bank will offer money transfer and payment services of Western Union at four of its branch locations:

The new services are an interesting addition to Laurentian Bank's product line. As part of a pilot project, the participating branches will offer these services both to the clients of the Bank and to other consumers. With more than 150 years of history and with over \$3 billion in revenue, Western Union has established a solid reputation worldwide. In particular, it includes business partnerships with several large companies in the banking and postal service domains.

About Laurentian Bank

Founded in 1846, Laurentian Bank ranks seventh among Canadian Schedule I banks, with balance sheet assets in excess of \$16 billion and \$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 (ticker symbol: LB) trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The address of the Bank's website is www.laurentianbank.com.

-30-

Information:

Laurentian Bank of Canada

Gladys Caron

Vice-President, Public Affairs and Communications

Office: (514) 284-4500, extension 7511

Cellular: (514) 893-3963

gladys.caron@banquelaurentienne.ca