



**LAURENTIAN BANK EXPERTS MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO THE MEDIA
AS THE RRSP SEASON GETS UNDERWAY**

Montreal, January 6 2009 – In conjunction with the start of the RRSP season, Laurentian Bank is pleased to be offering representatives of the media the services of its experts in this field. In so doing, Bank spokespeople are being made available to share their knowledge and insights on a number of different subjects, including financial planning, investor attitude during volatile times, the best investment strategies, the current economic context, as well as on the various investment options available.

Laurentian Bank Spokespersons in the area of RRSPs

Carlos Leitao

Chief Economist, Laurentian Bank Securities

Active in the banking field for the past 25 years, Carlos Leitao possesses vast knowledge of the issues and economic sectors in Quebec, along with the North American context in which the major regional economic players operate. An Economic Sciences graduate of McGill University, Carlos joined Laurentian Bank's Economic Services Group in 1982, and since January 2003, he has occupied the position of Chief Economist with Laurentian Bank Securities. He has also been a member of the Bank's Management Committee since May 2004 and was appointed to the Credit Committee in 2006. In November 2007, Carlos was ranked second among the best economists as part of the annual review of economic forecasts conducted by Bloomberg News.

Sébastien Lavoie

Economist, Laurentian Bank Securities

Sébastien Lavoie holds a Master degree in Economics from Université Laval and has occupied the post of Economist with Laurentian Bank Securities since 2006. Prior to joining the Bank, he worked within the financial sector in Toronto and Vancouver, and he also served as an Economist with the Bank of Canada. Sébastien has authored numerous publications on the Canadian and Quebec economies, as well as on the housing market and other timely subjects. In addition, he has frequently been called upon to comment on economic and financial developments by various English and French media.

Michel Tessier

Senior Financial Analyst

A Financial Analyst with Laurentian Bank Securities since 1984, Michel Tessier earned his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Concordia University in 1982 and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) accreditation in 1986. Specialized in publicly traded companies, Michel has developed extensive expertise in stock investment. He is an active member of the Cercle finance et placement Québec and the Montreal CFA Society.

Bianca Dupuis

Assistant Vice-President, Investment and Transactional Product Management

Responsible for investment-related market and socio-economic trend analyses, Bianca Dupuis is also actively involved in the management of investment and transactional product campaigns and promotions, particularly for RRSPs and RRIFs. In addition, she oversees projects and special initiatives related to retirement planning and mutual fund sales. Bianca holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree (Finance) from Université du Québec à Montréal and has worked at a number of other financial institutions over the course of close to 10 years prior to joining Laurentian Bank in 1997.



Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harold Heppel

Senior Manager, Investments

A recent arrival at Laurentian Bank, Harold Heppel has been working within the banking sector since 1995. Holding a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Université du Québec à Rimouski and an MBA in Research from UQAM, he also earned a diploma in Financial Planning from Université Laval. Harold's expertise encompasses the areas of investment, business development and strategic orientation.

Denis L'Hostie

Senior Manager, Financial Planning

Denis L'Hostie's professional career in the banking industry spans 25 years. In 2002, he was a key participant in the establishment of Laurentian Bank's Financial Planning Department. Today, his primary responsibilities at the Bank include promoting the growth of client assets under management and supervising the training of and professional support offered to his consulting teams. Denis has specific expertise in the areas of personal and commercial credit, as well as in project management. He holds an MBA and a diploma from the Institute of Canadian Bankers, along with a mutual fund license. Denis has been working as a financial planner since 1997, when he earned his accreditation from the Institut québécois de planification financière.

Guylaine Dufresne

Manager, Financial Planning, Laval and North Shore Market

Guylaine Dufresne has been offering her consulting services as a financial planner since 1999. After completing her education at Université Laval, she joined Laurentian Bank in 2004 and has occupied her present position since 2007. A member of the Institut québécois de planification financière, she has developed a particular knack for familiarizing Bank clientele with the various financial strategies available to them. Guylaine's specific areas of expertise include the development of financial plans, retirement planning and portfolio analysis, and she is a regular presenter at client conferences and collaborator with the various media.

Alain Théberge

Manager, Financial Planning, Ste-Foy/Lower Saint Lawrence/Gaspésie/Côte Nord Market

Alain Théberge has developed extensive and highly diversified experience in the financial services field over the course of his 28-year career, with specific expertise in business development and the implementation of effective financial planning strategies to meet his clients' objectives. Holding an MBA in Financial Services and a diploma from the Institute of Canadian Bankers, he has also completed a course on the sale of securities offered by the Canadian Securities Institute and received accreditation from the Institut québécois de planification financière in 1998.

Bernard Beauchemin

Manager, Financial Planning, Estrie/Mauricie/Bois-Francs Market

Bernard Beauchemin joined Laurentian Bank as Sales Manager for the Quebec and Eastern Quebec region in 1992. Subsequently, he served as Assistant Vice-President of Retail Financial Services for the Quebec Group and Assistant Vice-President for the Eastern Quebec market. Bernard has exceptional skills in financial planning and is intimately familiar with the National Capital and Eastern Quebec markets. His specific areas of expertise include accounting, real estate evaluation, project management and sales. Bernard has also successfully completed the course on security sales in Canada, has earned accreditation from the Investment Funds Institute of Canada, and holds the designation of Financial Planner from the Institut québécois de planification financière.



Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lynda Ranger

Assistant Vice-President, Eastern Montreal Market

Holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Finance), Lynda Ranger began her career at Laurentian Bank in 1990. She worked her way up the ranks to become Operations Manager, Grappe Innova — a position she occupied from 1994 to 1997 — and then Branch Manager until 2006, when she assumed her current position. Lynda's particular areas of expertise are management and business development, with specific expertise in multi-dwelling financing and mutual funds.

Robert Reny

Assistant Vice-President, Ste-Foy Market

Robert Reny joined Laurentian Bank in 1984, shortly after earning his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Université Laval. He has also completed training in financial planning, along with a course on security sales. Robert has occupied his present position since 2005, prior to which he served as a Branch Manager and Director of Sales Management. A member of the Institut québécois de planification financière, Robert has extensive expertise in the areas of investment, credit and sales management.

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 accessibility, the Bank serves individual consumers and small and medium-sized businesses. The Bank offers its products to a wide network of independent financial advisors through B2B Trust, as well as full-service brokerage solutions through Laurentian Bank Securities.

With 156 branches and 342 automated banking machines, Laurentian Bank of Canada is well established in the Province of Quebec, operating the third-largest branch network. Elsewhere throughout Canada, it operates in specific market segments where it holds an enviable position. Laurentian Bank of Canada has more than \$19 billion in balance sheet assets. Founded in 1846, the Bank employs nearly 3,400 people.

-30-

Information:

Mary-Claude Tardif
Public Relations Advisor
514 284-4500, extension 4695
mary-claude.tardif@banquelaurentienne.ca