



**LAURENTIAN BANK  
OF CANADA**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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**LAURENTIAN BANK ANNOUNCES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

**Montreal, March 16, 2005** – Today, at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, Raymond McManus, President and Chief Executive Officer of Laurentian Bank, has announced several business development initiatives. These initiatives include another Espresso Bank-Café, three new financial services boutiques, two Commercial Financial Services' Business Centres, and an agreement with the Fédération des travailleurs du Québec (FTQ) for an offer of financial products to its 550,000 members.

By the end of 2005, a second Espresso Bank-Café, an innovative concept launched by Laurentian Bank in partnership with Van Houtte last September, will welcome customers at the branch located at the intersection of the avenues Laurier and du Parc, in the Plateau Mont-Royal district of Montreal.

Moreover, in the coming months, three new financial services boutiques will open their doors in Boisbriand, Chambly and Vaudreuil. They are part of the Bank's plan to expand its existing branch network by adding some twenty new branches over the next three years.

With regard to Commercial Financial Services, the Bank has announced its plan for two new Business Centres on the Southshore and the Northshore of Montreal.

Finally, Mr. McManus announced that the Bank and the FTQ had signed an agreement to provide an offer of financial products to the 550,000 FTQ members. The two organizations will work together to develop products that would meet the specific needs of these clients.

**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](http://www.laurentianbank.ca).

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