



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS
AMERICAN PRIME RATE TO 6.00 %**

Montreal, February 2, 2005 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will increase its American prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 5.75 % to 6.00 % effective Thursday, February 3, 2005.

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