



**LAURENTIAN BANK  
OF CANADA**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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**LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS  
AMERICAN PRIME RATE TO 6.25 %**

**Montreal, March 22, 2005** — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will increase its American prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 6.00 % to 6.25 % effective Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

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