



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS PRIME RATE TO 5.50%

Montreal, March 7, 2006 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will increase its prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 5,25% to 5.50% effective Wednesday, March 8, 2006.

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