



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS PRIME RATE TO 4.25 %

Montreal, October 19, 2004 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will increase its prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 4.00 % to 4.25 % effective Wednesday, October 20, 2004.

- 30 -

Contacts :

Bernard Piché
Senior Executive Vice-President and Treasurer, Financial
Markets, Wealth Management and Brokerage and Treasury
(514) 284-4500 ext. 7562

Gladys Caron
Vice-President, Public Affairs and Communications
Office: (514) 284-4500 extension 7511
Cellular: (514) 893-3963
gladys.caron@banquelaurentienne.ca