

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS AMERICAN PRIME RATE TO 5.00 %

Montreal, August 11, 2004 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that its American prime lending rate is at 5.00% from 4.75%, effective August 12, 2004.

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Contacts :

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

Nathalie Roberge Vice-President, Public Affairs and Communications Office: (514) 284-4500 extension 7511 Cellular: (514) 893-3963 nathalie.roberge@banquelaurentienne.ca