



B2B TRUST

A SUBSIDIARY OF LAURENTIAN BANK

Press Release

For immediate publication

ASSANTE WEALTH MANAGEMENT AND B2B TRUST SIGN AGREEMENT FOR RRSP LOANS

Toronto, January 23, 2006 – B2B Trust, a subsidiary of Laurentian Bank, has announced the signing of an agreement with Assante Wealth Management for the distribution of RRSP loans. Under the terms of this agreement, B2B Trust will make RRSP loans available to financial advisors for their clients purchasing Assante Wealth Management products. Assante is a leading provider of integrated wealth management solutions in Canada with approximately 1,000 advisors.

"B2B Trust RRSP Loans will help Assante Wealth Management financial advisors better meet the needs and goals of their clients. Their clients will benefit from the B2B Trust improved range of RRSP loan products. Our simplified pricing schedule combined with an online RRSP loan submission capability make the borrowing process easy and convenient" explained Mr. Al Spadaro, Vice-President, Business Development, B2B Trust.

"Easy access to RRSP loans is important in supporting our advisors and their clients" said Clive Smith, Vice-President, Insurance and Financial Services. "B2B Trust offers a very competitive program and we are excited to welcome them to our existing lineup of partners."

About B2B Trust

B2B Trust is committed to providing financial advisors, planners and brokers with superior financial products and services for distribution to their clients. B2B Trust is a leading third-party supplier of investment and RSP lending products, the leading supplier of wholesale deposit products and a long-time provider of self-directed products, banking solutions and mortgages to the financial advisory community across Canada. B2B Trust's products and services are available nationally. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Laurentian Bank of Canada. Its head office is located in Toronto, Ontario, and the web site address is www.b2b-trust.com.

About Assante Wealth Management

Assante Wealth Management creates wealth and prosperity for Canadian families and businesses by providing integrated investment and wealth management solutions through a national network of over 1,000 professional advisors in offices across Canada. A leader in wealth management, we deliver investment advice, tax planning, and insurance and estate planning to our clients. Assante has over \$24 billion of assets under administration and is a fully owned subsidiary of CI Financial, a leading financial company with over \$70 billion in fee-earning assets.

– 30 –

For more information

B2B Trust
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