



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Laurentian Bank sells its stake in Brome Financial Corporation

Montreal, January 4, 2006 – Laurentian Bank announced today the sale of its stake in Brome Financial Corporation Inc. to Benassor Inc., effective on December 31, 2005.

As part of Laurentian Bank's efforts to refocus operations in its core market segments, it was decided to dispose of the Bank's 51% stake in Brome Financial Corporation. The details of this transaction will be disclosed with the announcement of Laurentian Bank's financial results for the 1st Quarter of fiscal 2006, scheduled for February 28, 2006.

Laurentian Bank focuses its operations on its four lines of business, more specifically Retail Financial Services, Commercial Financial Services, B2B Trust and Laurentian Bank Securities.

About Laurentian Bank

Founded in 1846, Laurentian Bank ranks seventh among Canadian Schedule I banks, with assets in excess of \$16 billion and close to \$15 billion in assets under management. The Bank offers highly competitive products and superior personalized service to meet the banking and financial needs of individuals, small- and medium-sized businesses and independent financial advisors. The Bank's common shares are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (ticker symbol: LB). The address of the Bank's website is www.laurentianbank.ca.

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