



LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK OF CANADA INVITES PEOPLE TO DARE THE FILM EXPERIENCE AT THE 3 AMERICAS FILM FESTIVAL

Quebec City, March 30, 2006 – Laurentian Bank of Canada, the official presenter of the 3 Americas Film Festival, invites people to DARE the film experience at the 7th Edition of the Film Festival that opens today in the National Capital. The event will run through Sunday, April 2, 2006.

During the Festival, film buffs will be treated to 40 full-length and 60 short films from around the world, as well as several special events, including *Total Crap*, *Kino Brésil*, *Les cathodiques pratiquants*, *Les Amériques à Clermont-Ferrand*, *Vidéo Paradiso: Spécial Québec*, *Le Mécano de la Générale* and *Image In*. In addition, two late-night short film programs will be held on March 30 and March 31 at the Imperial theatre, and free outdoor screenings of three great Quebec films will be given in front of the Church of Saint-Roch: *L'Audition* on March 30, *Saints-Martyrs-des-Damnés* on March 31, and *Horloge biologique* on April 1.

Laurentian Bank private screening

Laurentian Bank has also organized for its 235 clients and special guests a private screening of *La classe de madame Lise*, a full-length documentary by Sylvie Groulx. This film tells the story of a group of elementary school children from Parc-Extension, a multi-ethnic immigrant neighbourhood in Montreal, and shares their thoughts and personal journey. And since the subject is closely related to their career choice, some one hundred students in the Education Program at Université Laval in Quebec City have been invited to the event.

“Become a Film Critic” contest

Young people age 18 to 25 are invited to participate in the contest “Become a Film Critic at the 3AFF”. The goal of this contest is to promote the excellence of editing, the finesse of reviews as well as the originality of thought among young viewers. Three prizes will be awarded, including a trip to France (round-trip airfare ticket, hotel accommodation, screenings, visits and meetings associated with the Seventh Art). Ms. Gladys Caron, Vice-President, Public Affairs, Communications and Investor Relations, Laurentian Bank of Canada, will serve on the panel of judges.

To obtain a copy of the 3 Americas Film Festival program, please visit one of Laurentian Bank’s branches in the Quebec City area, any one of the Festival’s partners or the Festival’s web site www.fc3a.com.

About Laurentian Bank of Canada

Laurentian Bank of Canada is a Quebec banking institution operating across Canada, dedicated to meeting the financial needs of its clients through the excellence of its service, its simplicity and its proximity. The Bank serves individual consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as independent financial advisors through B2B Trust. It also provides full-service brokerage solutions through the Laurentian Bank Securities subsidiary. Laurentian Bank is well established in the Province of Quebec, operating the third largest retail branch network, and is a performing player in specific market segments elsewhere in the country. Laurentian Bank of Canada has over \$16 billion in balance sheet assets and close to \$15 billion in assets under administration. Founded in 1846, the Bank employs more than 3,000 people. Its common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: LB). For more information, please visit www.laurentianbank.ca.

-30-

For information:

Manon Stébenne
Senior Advisor, Public Affairs and Communications
Office: (514) 284-4500, extension 8232