



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

ALL BRANCHES OF LAURENTIAN BANK WILL OFFER WESTERN UNION SERVICES

Montreal, June 9, 2005 – Laurentian Bank has announced that all its branches will be offering money transfer and payment services of Western Union starting in mid-June. This new offer of services follows the signing of an exclusive banking agreement. Over the last few months, the Bank completed a pilot project in several branches and consequently decided to implement such offer of services throughout its network.

This offer of services is an interesting addition to Laurentian Bank's current product line and will be offered both to the Bank's clients and to all other customers. With more than 150 years of history and with over \$3 billion in revenue, Western Union has built a solid reputation worldwide. Western Union is a global leader in person-to-person money transfer services. It has established business partnerships with several large banking and postal service companies throughout the world.

"We see it as a new, interesting business opportunity that is consistent with our intention to reach out to our clients and to the communities in which we do business by offering a variety of products adapted to their needs. Western Union and Laurentian Bank share the same respect for many values. A large number of the Bank's customers are from cultural communities representing the main users of the services offered by Western Union. For these customers, it's a double opportunity," stated Réjean Robitaille, Executive Vice-President, Retail Financial Services of Laurentian Bank.

Western Union is also valued by immigrants who appreciate its fast and reliable service when they want to send money to relatives in their native country. Money transfers are also useful when parents want to send money to their children who left home to complete studies somewhere in Canada or even abroad, or when a friend or family member urgently needs cash while being on a trip.

The advantage of the Western Union money transfer service is that it is completed between people, instead of usual bank account transactions. And with agent locations in over 190 countries around the world, Western Union is the solution for people who are away for a short or medium term.

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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