



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS PRIME RATE TO 4.75 %

Montreal, October 18, 2005 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will increase its prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 4.50 % to 4.75 % effective Wednesday, October 19, 2005.

- 30 -

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