



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

**LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS
AMERICAN PRIME RATE TO 7.00 %**

Montreal, August 9, 2005 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will increase its American prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 6.75 % to 7.00 % effective Wednesday, August 10, 2005.

- 30 -

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