



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

**LAURENTIAN BANK INCREASES ITS
AMERICAN PRIME RATE TO 8.25%**

Montreal, March 28, 2006 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will increase its American prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 8.00% to 8.25% effective Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

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Contacts:

Mr. Yassir Berbiche
Senior Vice-President and Treasurer,
Corporate Treasury
(514) 284-4500 ext. 5937

Gladys Caron
Vice-President
Public Affairs, Communications and Investor Relations
Office: (514) 284-4500, ext. 7511
Cellular: (514) 893-3963
gladys.caron@banquelaurentienne.ca