



**LAURENTIAN BANK
OF CANADA**

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

LAURENTIAN BANK DECREASES ITS PRIME RATE TO 4.00 %

Montreal, March 2, 2004 — Laurentian Bank of Canada announces that it will decrease its prime lending rate by 25 basis points from 4.25 % to 4.00 % effective Wednesday, March 3, 2004.

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