

ING to complete the purchase of Equisure

Following its offer of September 29, 2000, ING CANADA together with seven property and casualty brokerages hold approximately 97.7% of the outstanding shares.

The price offered for the remaining shares of Equisure is \$7.00, which is the same price than the one included in the original offer. The acquisition of the shares will be completed by the end of February of this year.

Amsterdam-based ING Group is a global leader in integrated financial services, employing nearly 100,000 employees in more than 65 countries. ING comprises a broad spectrum of prominent companies operating close to their customers throughout the world. In Canada, ING companies provide insurance, investment and banking services to two and a half million customers through both direct and intermediary channels. ING companies in Canada include ING Commerce Group, ING Halifax, ING Novex, ING Wellington, ING Western Union, BELAIR*direct*, ING Direct and ING Investment Management.

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