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January 05, 2012 09:00 ET

National Leader Equity Financial Opens in Montreal

TORONTO, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - Jan. 5, 2012) - Equity Financial Holdings Inc. (TSX:EQI) ("EQI" or "the Corporation") Equity Financial Trust Company, the largest Canadian-owned provider of stock transfer services, is officially national with the opening of a Montreal office. The new office will be led by Louis Lochhead, who has a long and distinguished career in the industry.

Paul G. Smith, President and CEO of Equity Financial Holdings Inc. (TSX:EQI) says, "The addition of the Montréal office is a pivotal moment in our history. With offices in Canada's four major centres- Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and now Montréal-it affirms our national reach and continued commitment to provide outstanding service in both official languages."

Equity Financial* has approximately 700 issuer clients across Canada. Since 2005, the company's issuer client base has grown by more than 80 per cent-four times faster than the estimated growth in TMX listings. Equity Financial acted as a depositary for \$13 billion in cash M&A transactions, marking 2011 as the most successful year to date.

Mr. Lochhead is a bilingual French and English speaker and has more than twenty years of experience in stock transfer and corporate trust services, with expertise in debt trusteeships, shareholder services and corporate actions. Before joining Equity Financial, Mr. Lochhead worked with l'Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF), the National Bank of Canada and its subsidiary, National Bank Trust, and the Montreal Trust Company.

Equity Financial is a Canadian company serving corporate, institutional and retail clients. The company provides stock transfer, corporate trust mortgage, deposit-taking, foreign exchange, corporate secretarial and compliance services through the Equity Group of Companies.

**Transfer agent and trust services are provided by Equity Financial Trust Company; foreign exchange services are provided by Equity Financial F. and compliance and filing services are provided by Equity Corporate Services Inc. Mortgage and deposit taking services are only provided in Ontario.*

For more information or to schedule an interview with Mr. Smith or Mr. Lochhead, please contact Yana Pivtoratska.

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