

Leading with the Heart

Submitted by Wanda Pidwerbeski

"To Our Canadian Troops"
Commemorative CD Song Project
Honouring our Fallen Heroes, our Veterans and celebrating the soldiers and family members who are continuing to fight and sacrifice

Honour over 450,000 Canadian Forces members, their families and our Veterans world wide by purchasing a commemorative CD on their behalf at www.toourcanadiantroops.ca

All profits from the commemorative CD project go directly to the Military Families Fund that was founded by General (Ret) Rick Hillier.

Dennis Leclair
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The accounting firm of Keaney Harvey Hunt Ward in Kelowna BC will be responsible for the accounting of CD transactions and disbursement of profits from the project.

100% CANADIAN TALENT
 Honouring Our Canadian Troops
 The song is composed of lyrics written by Dennis Leclair
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It's clear a sense of service in his work is very important. Honouring and supporting these remarkably brave people was his inspiration behind developing the song.

Sometimes fate arrives with a gentle nudge. Other times it can show up with such force that it makes you jump to your feet and take immediate action. In late November 2008, Kelowna's own Dennis Leclair felt this unmistakable impact while watching a television special about the Canadian military. As the faces and names of our fallen heroes in Afghanistan were flashing one by one across his screen, he found himself overcome with emotion. Following the broadcast, he began writing a heartfelt "open letter" to our Canadian Troops - conveying how much "we" as a country, respect, admire and deeply appreciate their efforts and sacrifices - and most importantly, wishing them a safe return home to their family and friends.

As a musician, he knew he wanted to communicate through a song but what he didn't know was that this single sincere decision was about to take him on a life-changing journey. He also didn't realize the money he would invest, the hours he would devote, the support he would garner or how big this special project would soon become.

But Dennis found himself taking a bold and courageous step; committing to achieving the challenging goal of distributing 450,000 commemorative "To Our Canadian Troops" CDs to all Canadian Forces members, their families, military personnel and veterans worldwide. By most standards, this would be considered a lofty and aggressive goal. Some

might wonder if it's even attainable. Yet when you hear how Dennis attempts to rise above the many obstacles - never allowing doubt to enter his mind - you quickly become convinced that he will reach it, and maybe, just maybe, exceed it.

It's clear a sense of service in his work is very important. Honouring and supporting these remarkably brave people was his inspiration behind developing the song. Whether individuals and corporations purchase it for personal use or on behalf of a Canadian Forces recipient, all CD profits go directly to the Military Families Fund (www.cfpsa.com) - greatly assisting those in need.

Our military members continue fight, sacrifice and stand on guard to obtain and maintain our freedoms, and Dennis hopes the song captures our deep appreciation for what they endure. There's no question in his mind about their reasons for serving. What he admires most about them is their level of pride, commitment, respect, dignity and overall sense of duty. Dennis believes they have an incredibly strong belief that other less fortunate people have the right to the same freedoms as you and me.

Looking back, there were many circumstances that helped guide him to this cause. At the age of 14, he began playing guitar in a band and over the years performed at many Royal Canadian Legion events and Army Navy clubs. As a university instructor in special Education, he had the unique



