

# 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](http://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  
250-860-4912 • [dleclair@shawcable.com](mailto:dleclair@shawcable.com)

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  
Produced and recorded in Canada

Remember Our Canadian Troops  
We are proud of you, soldier and your family.

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](http://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





Dennis Leclair and Captain (Ret.) Heather Davis.

opportunity to teach both Canadian and United States military forces members and veterans. Even his chosen career path as owner of a private practice in counselling enabled him to provide services to the Canadian Forces members and their families. Dennis admits his own family may have influenced him, as both his grandfather and father served in the military, and most recently his cousin returned home from Afghanistan.

Success usually comes on the heels of a lot of hard work and following your intuition. For Dennis however, the "key ingredient" has been leading with his heart. His unwavering devotion to this cause has been the secret to opening doors and it continues to breathe a powerful momentum into each and every effort behind this special project.

His resolve has already generated support from several widely respected

and prominent Canadians and agencies including: The Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence; General Walt Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff; General (Ret) Rick Hillier, former Chief of the Defence Staff; The Department of National Defence; and The Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency.

Another valuable contributor is Captain (Ret) Heather Davis, former Commanding Officer and Director of Music. Captain Davis completed the band arrangements for the "To Our Canadian Troops" song and has been performing it at many public venues with her orchestra - the Kelowna City Band. Heather has been a great supporter of this project and Dennis is extremely honoured by her involvement and grateful that she continues to help in so many ways.

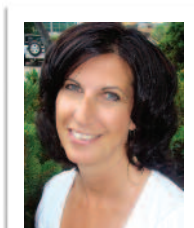


What started out as penning a meaningful tribute could very well be evolving into an anthem stirring emotion and pride - acknowledging and honouring all that we have as Canadians. Okanagan Canadian Forces members will benefit from the monies raised through this commemorative CD project, via the Canadian Military Families Fund.

For more information on Dennis Leclair and to support this special project please visit: [www.toourcanadiantroops.ca](http://www.toourcanadiantroops.ca)

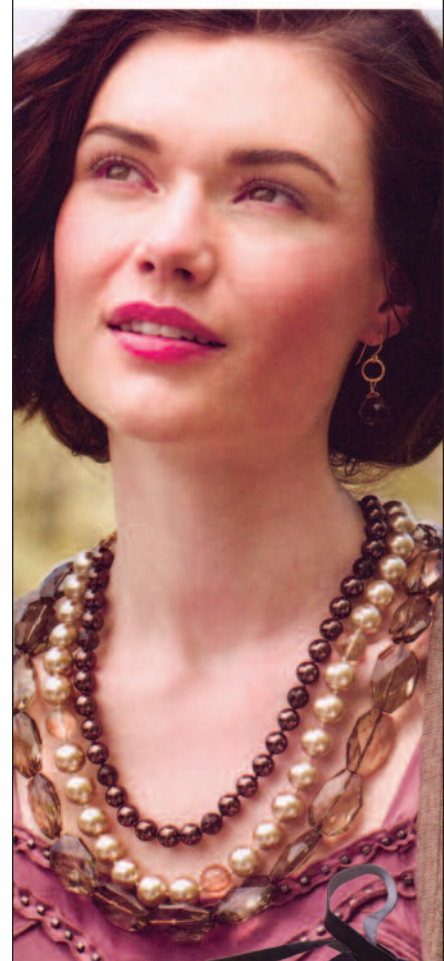


General Walt Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff and Dennis Leclair.



Wanda Pidwerbeski is a Case Manager at Leclair & Associates Consulting Ltd. It has been her honour and pleasure to be involved in the initial stages and ongoing development of the "To Our Canadian Troops" commemorative CD project.

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