

Lieutenant-General Christine Whitecross personifies commitment. This commitment is demonstrated in her service to Canada, her community and her family. Contributing directly and impressively to the security and defence of our country, Lieutenant-General Whitecross is an exemplary role model for all Canadians.

Through her time in the cadet program and then the Canadian Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General Whitecross has served Canada with honour in progressively more demanding roles. An accomplished Construction Engineer, she has set an example of professional competence, personal commitment and leadership for the women and men who have worked with and for her. This includes commanding in the Canadian North to transition the Canadian Forces Northern Area to the more operationally focused Joint Task Force North, a 10-month deployment with the United Nations Protection Force (Yugoslavia), and 14 months with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

As Commander of Military Personnel Command, she was appointed as the Commander of the Canadian Forces Strategic Response Team on Sexual Misconduct. Her leadership in the design of the strategic plan and then its implementation set a strong tone and commitment to addressing the systemic issues of sexual harassment within the Canadian Armed Forces raised in the Deschamps report. As the leader on this issue on behalf of the Chief of the Defence Staff, and the public face for change within the Canadian Armed Forces, she showed dedication and commitment to rebuild confidence in the CAF as an institution, reinforcing Canadian values domestically and setting a strong example internationally.

With her election by the Alliance members as Commandant of the NATO Defense College, only the third Canadian and first woman to serve in this post, Lieutenant-General Whitecross brings energy and focus to the relevance and effectiveness of gender equality for defence and the Armed Forces of the Alliance. She has also been a considerable influence beyond the military environment having been appointed to the Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency and twice named as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women in 2011 and 2016.

In addition to her professional service to Canadian security and defence, Lieutenant-General Whitecross has consistently lived her life in the service of other Canadians. Despite her arduous professional duties, she was a member of the Rotary Club for more than 10 years working to improve communities and being an agent for change. She served as local club president three times. Lieutenant-General Whitecross also contributed to projects such as Christmas Hampers, the Snowsuit Fund of Ottawa and city clean-ups. With her husband, Ian, they have been foster parents to more than 30 children while raising their own. Their children, Christopher, Shaynah, Brienne, and Ian's daughter, Natasha, have all undertaken careers with a focus on service to community, a testament to the example they have set.

Lieutenant-General Whitecross, a highly successful woman in a domain traditionally dominated by men, has served with distinction in key leadership roles for Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces at home and abroad. She has made a strong impact professionally and personally in promoting the security, defence and values of Canada, setting an enduring example of public and personal service for all Canadians.