



Heinbecker once said, “All I ever wanted to do was play football. . . I don’t mean to sound casual about this but for as long as I can remember football was in my blood. I never thought about doing much else.”

The two worlds collided on a single day after he graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1965 with a degree in English and history. That day he was made a first-round pick of the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League and he got a job offer from the External Affairs Department in Ottawa.

Heinbecker chose Ottawa and soon moved to Turkey where he met his wife Ayse Komen. Heinbecker has said that meeting his wife and the birth of his two daughters were among the highlights of his life in public service.

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