



BRENDA FLAHERTY
YMCA Canada

30 years of age or under on 4 July 2022? No

BIOGRAPHY

Brenda Flaherty is a strategic leader with extensive experience guiding organizational change initiatives for complex organizations and systems in the health care sector. Strongly committed to building healthy communities, she has actively worked to do so throughout her career and volunteer engagements. Brenda believes all young people should have the opportunity to reach their full potential and that organizations like the YMCA are well-positioned to support youth and communities worldwide by influencing and transforming the systems that impact them.

Brenda's involvement with the YMCA in Canada includes most recently serving as Chair of the National Board. She is also past Chair of the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford. One of Brenda's most significant YMCA accomplishments was to lead the development of the Live Well partnership between the YMCA, Hamilton Health Sciences, and McMaster University, collaboratively linking acute care hospital health services with community health and wellness programs.

Brenda retired as Executive Vice President, Clinical Operations and Chief Operating Officer at Hamilton Health Sciences, representing seven hospitals and serving 2.3 million people. Brenda continues to lead systems-wide change to improve healthcare, research, and education, which involves leading and participating in many regional, provincial, national expert panels and advisory committees. Brenda is also an Assistant Professor at McMaster University and was a part-time instructor in the MBA program.

Brenda remains engaged in several organizations which have included the Ontario Brain Institute Outreach Advisory Committee; North Hamilton Community Health Centre; and the Change Foundation where she served in capacities including Board Chair.

Brenda leverages her position as a community leader to advocate for change, particularly on behalf of youth, and always with a lens of diversity and inclusion, seeking to integrate differing perspectives. Motivated by her work with the YMCA, from 2019-2021, Brenda was a member of a three-person independent review panel involving nearly 10,000 stakeholders in a consultation process that produced a report: Building Healthy Relationships and an Inclusive, Caring Learning Environment, on bullying prevention and intervention. They have since engaged the Ontario government to call for transformational systems change in education.

Brenda is a Registered Nurse, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from McMaster University and a Master of Public Administration from Queen's University. She was recognized by McMaster University, Faculty of Health Sciences with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Science (2019). Brenda lives in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada with her husband and is the proud mother of three daughters.

