

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**YMCA & Laurier University Announce Appointment of
New General Manager for Future Laurier Brantford YMCA**

March 13, 2018

YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford in partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University is pleased to announce the appointment of Pat Kitchen as General Manager of the new Laurier Brantford YMCA. Pat joins the YMCA from her current role as Associate Director, Athletics and Recreation at Laurier's Waterloo campus.

Construction at the Laurier Brantford YMCA is expected to wrap up this summer, with official Grand Opening celebrations planned for early Fall. In this new role, Pat will be instrumental in ensuring personnel and programming are fully prepared to welcome members to the facility, and operationalizing a space that will support health, wellness, sport and fitness in the community for many years to come.

"We are excited to have Pat join the YMCA team. She exemplifies the shared values of Laurier University and the YMCA and has been recognized for contributing to a positive staff and student experience", said Genevieve Hladysz, Senior Regional Manager, YMCA Health, Fitness & Aquatics. "The YMCA has a long history of serving the Brantford community. As we enter this new phase, we are confident Pat's leadership will help to deliver on our mission of building healthy communities".



In the years prior to joining Laurier in 2005, Pat worked at Western University as the chairperson of Campus Recreation, and at George Brown College as the Director of Athletics & Recreation. She's remained active in aquatic safety promotion, serving as Ontario branch president for the Lifesaving Society, and as the team manager of the Canadian Lifesaving Team.

"Pat has worked with the YMCA and Laurier operations team since the start of the project some five years ago," said Peter Baxter, Director of Athletics and Recreation at Wilfrid Laurier University. "Her presence at the table throughout the planning process for the new facility provides her with important insights into the shared values of this unique partnership. We are confident that Pat has the experience needed to successfully develop the team that will serve our students, and the residents of Brantford and the surrounding communities of Brant, Six Nations and New Credit."

Pat has had a long history in recreation and sport. As student athlete at Western she was a swimmer, winning the individual CIAU (Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Association) championship title in both the 100-metre and 200-metre breaststroke. Pat's athletic achievements were mirrored in her academic life. She has obtained two bachelor degrees and a Masters. Pat remains an active athlete, competing in masters' division triathlons.

Pat joins the YMCA team this week.

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