

# **Janet Austin**

**Chief Executive Officer at YWCA Metro Vancouver**

Vancouver, BC, CA

Janet Austin is responsible for one of BC's largest and most diversified non-profits

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## **Biography**

Janet Austin is the CEO of the YWCA Metro Vancouver, one of the province's largest non-profits, and the former Chair of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. Janet has reached the highest level of achievement in both the social and business sectors. She has guided the YWCA Metro Vancouver, which has a \$28.3-million annual operating budget, through a number of transitions that has put the organization at the heart of the lives of tens of thousands of British Columbians using its services and programs and supporting their physical and mental well-being at more than 40 locations. A champion of social change, Janet previously served as Director of Development Services for BC Housing and as Executive Director of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland. She currently volunteers on various committees and boards including the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Big Sisters Honorary Advisory Board, and the City of Vancouver Healthy City for All Leadership Table. Janet was named by the Women's Executive Network as one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women in 2008 and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Kwantlen Polytechnic University in 2013. She has received the Queen Elizabeth Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and was appointed to the Order of BC in 2016. Over the past decade, Janet has spearheaded community-focused initiatives at the YWCA, expanding its geographic and social reach in order to increase access to affordable housing for low-income single mothers and women leaving abusive relationships, supporting youth in foster care to transition to independence, and broadening services for marginalized women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Janet says: "Work hard, step up, speak up and speak out about things that matter."

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## **Industry Expertise**

Non-Profit/Charitable, Public Policy, Fund-Raising

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Non-Profit Leadership, Social Housing, Transition Housing, Homeless Shelters, Group Homes

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## **Affiliations**

The Vancouver Board of Trade Board of Directors : Past-Chair, The Board of the Canadian Paediatric Society : Public Member, The Vancouver Board of Trade Governance and Nominating Committee : Chair, The Vancouver Board of Trade HR and Compensation Committee : Chair, The Canadian Council on Social Determinants of Health (CCSDH) - Healthy Child Development Task Group, The City of Vancouver's Healthy City for All Leadership Table, The Honorary Advisory Board of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland, The Organizing Committee for the National Retreat for Women, The Scientific Advisory Board of the Women's Health Research Institute, Annual speaker at the Canadian Board Diversity Council (CBDC) "Get on Board" Education Program in Vancouver

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## **Accomplishments**

**Vancouver Power 50**  
2014

**Influential Woman in Business Award**  
Business in Vancouver

**Community Leadership Award**  
Vancouver Board of Trade

**Queen's Jubilee Medal**  
Recipient

**BASS Award**  
FU Beedie School of Business

**Big Sisters Big Heart**  
Awarded for outstanding contributions by a volunteer

**Order of British Columbia**  
Appointed to the Order of British Columbia - 2016

**CEO of the Year**  
Business in Vancouver - 2016

**WXN Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women**  
Women's Executive Network's list of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women - 2008

**Honorary Doctorate of Laws**  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University - 2013

**Vancouver Magazine's Power 50 2016**  
Power 50 2016: VanMag's Ranking of the Year's Most Powerful People

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