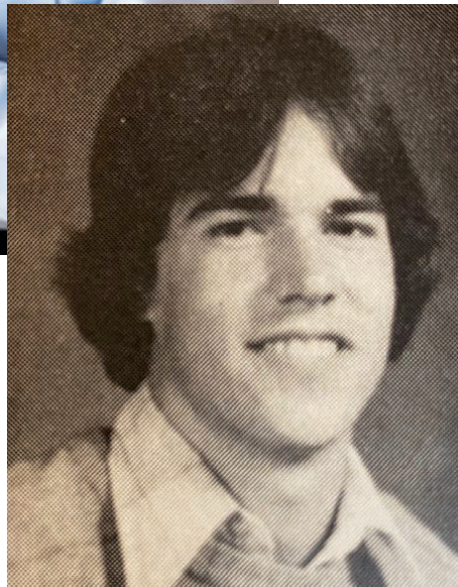


# Bill Barrable

## *Public Health*



**Inducted: 2020**  
**Years at GCI&VS:**  
**1975-1980**



Bill Barrable was born in Galt in 1961. He attended Highland and St. Andrew's Public schools, then GCI from 1975 to 1980. At GCI he played hockey, soccer and football and was named to the Waterloo county football all-star team at quarterback. Upon graduation he was chosen the student "best combining Athletics and Academics" subsequent to receiving Athlete of the Year honours.

Bill attended Queen's University where he was a member of the Golden Gael's football team. He was chosen Most Valuable Player of the 1983 Yates Cup and named to the Ontario -Quebec all-star team. National finalists, his team was later inducted into the Queen's Football Hall of Fame.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1984 Bill enrolled at the University of Toronto graduating with his MHSoc from Dalla Lana School of Public Health in 1986.

From 1989 to 1994 he worked as Director of Medical Affairs and Small Hospitals for the Ontario Hospital Association where he conducted a role study for rural Ontario hospitals. It's recommendations provided guidance to the province's evolving hospital system. In the early 1990s his award-winning study of medical quality assurance programs across Ontario hospitals, was used as support by the BC government to justify legal protection for quality assurance and audit activities in health care facilities. His seminal publication in the CMA Journal provided justification for section 51(2) of the new BC Evidence Act.

In 1994 Bill was appointed the CEO of British Columbia Transplant which led to numerous firsts. In 1997 he organized support for legislation which enshrined rights to donate organs with similar authority to an advance directive or living will. His proposed legislation was passed unanimously by the BC legislature nine months later.

Bill laid the groundwork for Canada's first charitable foundation dedicated to support research in organ transplantation and championed the development and implementation of the world's first online digital signature organ donor registry, which was legally enforceable. It became an international model. Later he organized a coalition of partners to create the world's first program

of financial support for living organ donors. This was followed by record numbers of organ transplants in the province.

In 1999 Bill was named one of Canada's Top 40 under the age of 40. A year later BC Transplant received the Canada Award for Excellence from the National Quality Institute (now Excellence Canada), the first healthcare organization in Canada to receive this distinction.

In 2001 he was invited to chair the new Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. As Board chairman he oversaw all start up activities of the Foundation, which was named in honour of Canadian Nobel laureate, Michael Smith. Through its infrastructure and personnel investments, the MSFHR has since increased health research support in BC many times over.

In 2010 Bill received an Alumni Leadership Award from the University of Toronto's Society of Graduates in health policy, management and evaluation. He also accepted the position of chief executive officer for the Rick Hansen Institute. Headquartered in Vancouver, the Institute, now renamed the Praxis Spinal Cord Institute, has grown from a pan Canadian network of research and innovation sites committed to the cure of spinal cord injury, to the leading global Institute for the research, care and treatment of persons with SCI. Today the Institute has research partners in 39 countries around the world in addition to dozens of sites in Canada.

In 2011 he championed the creation of national hospital standards for acute and rehabilitation care of SCI patients. With the support of the Institute, Accreditation Canada adopted the first such standards, in the world, in 2013.

In the past decade Bill has also been a strong advocate for the revision of body checking and heading rules in youth hockey and soccer, to reduce and prevent brain and back injuries. In 2012 he was instrumental in a campaign to remove body checking from all peewee leagues across Canada. This rule change has prevented thousands of serious injuries among players aged 11-12.

Bill and his wife, Kristina, live in British Columbia with their two children, Jack and Maria.

