

Brennan Kenneth Brown

Queer Métis Author, Web Developer & Community Builder

Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Treaty 7 Territory) · he / they

mail@brennanbrown.ca · [Portfolio](#)

[GitHub](#) · [LinkedIn](#) · [Blog](#) · [Berry House](#)

Executive Summary

Results-driven web developer and author with 8+ years experience building accessible JAMstack solutions and 15+ years of experience in writing, editing, and publishing. Founded [Berry House](#) (dual-mission model) and [Write Club](#) (100+ members), with 3,800+ GitHub contributions, 900+ coding hours, and 20+ open-source projects. Published 9 books (1,500+ pages) and 200+ articles, generating 270K+ views as a professional writer. Seeking opportunities in web development, creative nonfiction, developer relations, and inclusive tech initiatives.

Metrics: 3,800+ GitHub contributions · 270K+ article views · 100+ GitHub stars · 500+ tool downloads · 9 published books

Technical Skills

Languages: JavaScript, Python, HTML, CSS, SQL, Markdown, Ruby, YAML, TOML

Frameworks & Libraries: React, Node.js, Astro, Eleventy, Hugo, Jekyll, Ruby on Rails, Flask, PostgreSQL, GraphQL, TailwindCSS

Design & Styling: Tailwind CSS, Sass/SCSS, Bootstrap, Figma, Canva

Tools & Platforms: Git, NPM, RubyGems, Docker, WordPress, Netlify, Heroku, DigitalOcean

Writing & Content: Technical Writing, Editing & Proofreading, Content Strategy, SEO, Copywriting, DEV.to, LaTeX

Best Practices: Accessibility (A11y), Performance Optimization, Responsive Design, Systems Thinking

Professional Experience

Lead Developer & Founder

[Berry House](#)

Aug 2025 – Present

Remote

- Dual-mission model: corporate rates fund pro-bono work for nonprofits and marginalized communities
 - 20+ open-source projects across Jekyll, Eleventy, Hugo ecosystems
 - 3,800+ GitHub contributions (8+ years), peak 1,000+ in 2025
 - 900+ hours coding time (Aug 2017–Feb 2026): Markdown 41%, HTML 14%, JavaScript 12%
- 95+ Google Lighthouse scores (performance, accessibility, SEO, best practices)
 - JAMstack architecture: pre-rendered HTML, CDN delivery, zero server management
 - IndieWeb-compliant starters with Webmentions, Microformats, RSS (100+ downloads/month)
- 500+ tool downloads (jekyll-audit CLI, Markdown-to-DOCX, Meddler, accessibility packages)
 - Patreon + Discord community (writers + developers, tiered membership)
 - Technical tutorials: “Jekyll Gem,” “jekyll-audit,” “11ty IndieAuth and Netlify Webhooks”

Lead Instructor

[Fireweed Writing School](#)

Jan 2026 – Present

Calgary, Alberta (Remote)

- Online writing school focused on craft, discipline, community-based learning (Summer 2026 launch)
 - Anti-racist, student-centered pedagogy in bi-weekly workshop curriculum
 - Weekly writing assignments + craft exercises + individualized feedback
 - Course materials: imagist techniques, revision processes, publication pathways
- Live 2-hour workshops with small cohorts
 - Peer critique sessions using Critical Response Process methodology
 - Building online community infrastructure and learning platforms

Independent Journalist

A Medium Corporation

Remote

Dec 2015 – Present

- 220+ longform articles with 270K+ views, 75K+ reads, 15K+ presentations (Nov 2025-Feb 2026)
- Viral content: Gen-Z analog movement (2.6K views), AI ethics criticism, public transit advocacy
- Technical contributions: Medium export tool, JAMstack themes, IndieWeb guides, accessibility documentation

Book Author

Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing

Remote

Sep 2021 – Present

- Published 9 books independently (poetry chapbooks, essay collections, memoir) totaling 1,500+ pages
 - Work spanning confessional poetry, Indigenous identity exploration, love poetry, literary criticism
 - Achieved 4.8–5.0 star ratings across published works
- Served as editor and foreword contributor for collaborative anthologies
 - Editor + foreword contributor for *On the Fringe* anthologies (20+ emerging writers)
 - 6 books released 2023–2025 while completing undergraduate degree

Founder and President

Write Club

Calgary, Alberta

Sep 2022 – Jun 2025

- Developed weekly meetings fostering learning community of 100+ members focused on creative writing skills and critique
 - Led fundraising events supporting Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation
 - Organized author readings, poetry slams, and anthology publications
- Built writeclub.ca on Jekyll with focus on accessibility and community engagement
 - Created complete visual identity and design guidelines

Education

Bachelor of Arts in English (Honours)

Mount Royal University (GPA: 3.8)

Calgary, Alberta

Sep 2021 – Apr 2025

- Double Minor: Creative Writing and Religious Studies
- President of the Creative Writing Club (Write Club) and Member of the Golden Key Honour Society
- **Honours Thesis:** "How the English Degree Will Save the World" (Dec 2024) - DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.25021.37600

Information Technology

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

Calgary, Alberta

2017 – 2018

- Studied hardware, operating systems, networking, and programming essentials
- Business dynamics, communications, and presentation skills
- UI and MySQL database design
- Object-oriented programming and website development fundamentals

Open Source Projects

3,800+ GitHub Contributions · 100+ Repository Stars · 20+ Active Projects

Blog Themes & Templates

- [enjoyment-work](#) — Digital garden with zettelkasten system for daily thoughts and curated ideas [HTML](#)
- [purelog](#) — Responsive sidebar Jekyll theme created with Pure.css framework for writers and bloggers [HTML](#)
- [watery](#) — Minimalist Jekyll theme using Water.css with accessibility and SEO best practices [HTML](#)
- [11ty-Indie-Web-Blog-Starter](#) — Blog template built with Tailwind CSS, microformats2 Nunjucks, Tailwind CSS

- **newsprint** — 11ty blog theme with newspaper aesthetic, newsletter-first publication with RSS focus *CSS*
- **hyperpop** — Y2K-inspired static blog theme built with Eleventy with authentic late 90s/early 2000s aesthetics *Nunjucks*
- **Campfire-Hugo-Theme** — Warm, story-focused Hugo theme with typography and opinionated design choices *HTML*
- **foothills** — Tumblr theme designed as cozy, comfy portfolio for poetry and other writing *HTML*
- **brennan.jp.net** — Hugo theme recreating compact, text-heavy Japanese design aesthetic with modern a11y *HTML*

Developer Tools & Utilities

- **markdown-to-docx** — Website that converts markdown files to Microsoft Word format *Python*
- **meddler** — CLI tool and website for converting Medium exports for static site generators *TypeScript*
- **writerbox** — Terminal-based UI application for managing and visualizing collections of markdown writing files *Python*
- **atlas-prompt-injection-poc** — Proof-of-concept testing AI browser exploitability in Atlas and Comet *HTML*

Web Applications & Projects

- **evolveu** — Full-stack development program projects and tests from InceptionU *JavaScript, Python, Flask, React*
- **journalfor.me** — Markdown journal application prioritizing a11y and offline functionality *TypeScript, Tailwind CSS, Vite*
- **moneystree** — Privacy-first, offline-capable finance PWA with transactions and budgeting *JavaScript*
- **calgarygroups** — Calgary community wayfinder connecting people to grassroots groups and local initiatives *Nunjucks*
- **thinkingwhy.com** — Astro 5.x blog with AISO, JSON-LD structured data, and Core Web Vitals optimization *Astro*

Community & Resources

- **journalbar** — Personal blog for self-quantification via Beeminder, powered by Jekyll *CSS*
- **bearminder** — Tracking daily word counts from Bear app into Beeminder for writing consistency *Swift*
- **WatermelonClub** — Joyful, accessible Palestine solidarity resources for Canadian students for organization *CSS*
- **WriteClub** — Mount Royal University Creative Writing Club website for safer writing space and community *HTML*

Publications & Books

Poetry Collections

THE DOGWOOD VERSES: A Poetry Chapbook, Selected Writings 2011-2021

August 31, 2021 · 587 pages · ISBN: 979-8468498743 · Foreword by Yaishal Aslam

For ten years, lifelong poet Brennan Kenneth Brown carefully and in secret crafted THE DOGWOOD VERSES. This anthology includes over 300 poems as well as selected prose and essays. An inevitable cocktail of nostalgia, regret and love.

Holy Waterfall: 16 New & Selected Poems for Mohkinstsis akápiyoyis & the Red River

March 13, 2023 · 40 pages · ISBN: 979-8386930387

A chapbook and series of confessional poetry and outsider art exploring Indigenous identity, religious beliefs, traumatic past, family, and love. A Gospel of poetry and art, Holy Waterfall works as a reflection, a way to cleanse and renew the spirit.

The Weight of Yr Heart: Love Poetry for Connie Yu

December 17, 2023 · 54 pages · ISBN: 979-8872139089

An collection of thirty-seven love poems centered around a transcendental love for Brown's partner, Connie. Examining the tender complexities of relationships through vulnerability.

Your Brothers Keeper: A Love Letter to Dostoevsky

August 3, 2024 · 40 pages · ISBN: 979-8334888722

A young poet finds an unlikely kindred spirit in Fyodor Dostoevsky. The collection of poems in this chapbook are part love letter, part wrestling match with one of the greatest novels of all time, The Brothers Karamazov.

The Reaper and Her Sickle: Rough Cuts, Spares, Afterthoughts, B-Sides and Experiments

August 11, 2024 · 252 pages · ISBN: 979-8387237157

A raw, unfiltered glimpse into the creative process of an emerging poet. This 250-page compendium collects three years of unpublished writings, discarded drafts, and experimental verses from Brown's undergraduate journey at Mount Royal University.

Essay Collections & Memoir

Selected Essays & Prose: Writings, 2011 – 2021

October 20, 2021 · 146 pages · ISBN: 979-8750233588

Taking influence from Chinese philosophers such as Lin Yutang and his book, *The Importance of Living*, Brown takes a contemporary lens to the meaningfulness of everyday life, and what it means to be a good person in the 21st century.

PRAIRIE BOYSPIRIT: An NDN Memoir

December 11, 2024 · 50 pages · ISBN: 979-8303372290

This series of essays confronts addiction, white-passingness, self-harm, and cultural displacement while burning sage from crystal shops and praying to a God that's equal parts Catholic guilt and Cree cosmology.

As Editor/Contributor/Foreword Writer

On the Fringe: A Collection of Filth

March 19, 2024 · 100 pages · ISBN: 979-8884162167 · Foreword by Brennan Kenneth Brown

A daring debut anthology written by Mount Royal University's Write Club. A foray into difficult and untamed territories of human experience. Through murky waters of controversy, *On the Fringe* explores the boundaries most fear to tread: Sex, death, and crime.

On the Fringe: A Collection of Community

April 12, 2025 · 267 pages · ISBN: 979-8319240255 · Foreword by Brennan Kenneth Brown

A Collection of Community brings together the voices of Mount Royal University's Write Club in an exploration of tradition, companionship, and vision. This anthology showcases over twenty emerging writers who gathered weekly in a clubhouse to share vulnerable truths.

Academic & Journal Publications

How the English Degree Will Save the World

December 2024 · Honours Thesis · Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Banting · DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.25021.37600

Examines the transformative potential of literary studies through pedagogy. Introduces "bloodwriting" as a bridge between Indigenous knowledge and digital literary practices.

Indigenous Resilience in Illustration: "Nimkii" and the Story of Survival

April 9, 2024 · Mount Royal University Undergraduate Humanities Review · DOI: 10.29173/mruhr768

Analysis of "Nimkii" (This Place: 150 Years Retold) and the lasting impacts of the Sixties Scoop.

The Tao of Bees: How I Use Beeminder

September 12, 2017 · Beeminder Blog (Guest Post)

Two-part guest post series on goal-tracking, productivity systems, and building sustainable creative habits through quantified self-tracking. [Part Two: The Sting of Work](#)

Volunteering & Community Service

Digital Consultant

[Calgary Vegan Society](#)

Sep 2023 – Present

Providing digital strategy guidance for Alberta's leading vegan advocacy organization. Created social media marketing strategies, and visual branding improvements for community engagement, increasing online visibility for plant-based education initiatives.

Professional Member

[Writers' Guild of Alberta](#)

Aug 2022 – Present

Active member of Alberta's largest literary organization, participating in professional development workshops, networking events, and community initiatives. Engaged in promoting literary arts across the province while building connections with fellow writers, publishers, and literary professionals.

Social Services Support

[Manitoba Métis Federation](#)

Sep 2020 – Apr 2022

Volunteer staff supporting Social Services initiatives for the Red River Métis community. Assisted with program coordination, community outreach, and cultural preservation efforts while connecting Métis citizens with community development.

Potwisher

[Calgary Folk Music Festival](#)

Jul 2012 – Jul 2015

Kitchen operations team member for Calgary's premier folk music festival. Managed dishwashing operations during peak festival hours, handled labour-intensive tasks requiring physical stamina and attention to detail, providing reliable service to thousands of attendees and performers.