

Name Amber Daigneault

Title Aboriginal Library Services Coordinator, Provincial Library and Literacy Office, a branch of the Ministry of Education – until mid-July.

Born and Lived Born in Meadow Lake, registered with Peepeekisis First Nation, grew up in the Metis community of Ile-a-la-Crosse, moved to Fort Qu'Appelle, works in Regina. I had lived briefly in Yorkton, Canoe Lake, Edmonton, and on a couple of reserves. Also spent some time hitchhiking across northern Saskatchewan.

Early Life When I was younger, I really overlooked the fact that life in northern Saskatchewan was the sort of calm that most city people actually strive for. The trees soften the sounds of nearby traffic, the waterways have their own trails, and if you time it right, you can pick the berries and mushrooms for tomorrow's breakfast. Instead of enjoying the beauty of the north, I hid in library books and complained that my life wasn't idyllic like the ones on the pages I'd read. When my mom and aunties and kokum would take me out to forage and prep fish or wild meat, I'd tell them stories of kids in books that never had to do any of that.

Professional career and activities My background is in family literacy and education. While I do miss the classroom and the circ desk, I will hold my five-year plan steady. This will include library school – specifically University of Alberta for their one class on *Indigenous Contexts for Library and Information Studies in Canada*. <https://preprint.press.jhu.edu/portal/sites/ajm/files/21.2ball.pdf>

Family I have three children. This September, Liam will be entering grade eleven, Emily will be entering grade nine, and *Tomato Sauce Headband* (nom de guerre) will be entering grade two. At the end of July, I will be moving in with my long-term partner, James. He also enjoys libraries.

In my spare time Sometimes I am beading, sometimes I make stitch markers from foraged materials (quills, beads, birch, hide, stone, antler, dentalium, other bone). Usually, I am knitting. I seek the knitting patterns that include several stitches and construction methods that I haven't tried yet. I knit for the process, not for the product. Over time, I've learned how to tech edit, which entails proofreading patterns before release date for proper written instruction, charting, schematics, grading, and other terribly boring details that shouldn't usually be overlooked before pattern release. Test knitting that pattern is the exciting part. I am a continental knitter, and I prefer cheapo wool that holds up with repeated wear and care.

Favourite books Post apocalyptic dystopia, hard science fiction, satire, salacious historical drama

Most memorable career achievement Joining a cohort of seasoned and new educators in a week-long tipi camp – I will always remember the underground turkey that was mostly edible, gourmet lemon herbed salmon over the campfire, ugly bannock contest, weirdly competitive twig dolls, "running and screaming," and successfully not tipping over the canoe. Oh, and tipi tales – none of which will leave the tipi. Another memorable time was when I successfully convinced my board chair and some of the board to hand out books at the Treaty 4 parade, then got some of the library systems to join me in telling bad jokes and reading deadly stories at the Treaty 4 Gathering. Honestly – any time we are able to take the office, the classroom, the group, outside to learn and work is a good time.

maarsii, kinanâskomitin, tiniki, thank you
Amber Daigneault

