

## **Congratulations to Mary Donaldson Award of Merit Recipient Toby Cocks**

The Saskatchewan Library Association is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2020 Mary Donaldson Award of Merit is **Toby Cocks**. Toby has extensive experience as an Early Childhood Educator including eight years as a Library Clerk and Children's Programmer at a Public Library in British Columbia.

Toby describes libraries as bustling, busy, challenging, diverse and engaging places. She notes that they can be noisy, full of life, a second home for many and a great place for networking, relaxing, learning, enjoying and just being. She has chosen a career in the library field because she enjoys helping people and she finds the diversity challenging and exciting. Whether shelving or ordering books, finding answers to patrons' questions, providing book recommendations, offering computer assistance or planning and implementing programming Toby is keen to contribute.



Photo Credit: Toby Cocks

A former employer and reference notes: "Toby's future in libraries is bright and whichever organization is lucky enough to employ her will be so fortunate. The talent, skills, and real-life experiences that Toby brings to the library profession shows in all she does. She is a true hope for the future of the profession."

You can read about Toby's experience below.

### **Mary Donaldson Award Report**

As I was required to finish up the Library Technician program online due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, I was so grateful and thankful to receive the news that I had been chosen as the recipient of the Mary Donaldson Award of Merit. It was so nice to receive such positive news during such a difficult time. What an honour to be recognized for my accomplishments as a student, for the career goals I have set for myself and for my experience working in libraries. With libraries currently being closed this generous award helps to ease the financial burden I am currently facing while being unable to work.

While I was sad to hear that the annual SLA conference had to be cancelled this year, I know there will be library conferences in my future where I will be able to network with others, share ideas and grow and learn as a librarian. I am so proud to be entering a field where the constant goal is to support, connect and provide outreach in diverse and unique ways and I look forward to a fulfilling and rewarding career as a librarian.

Sincerely,

Toby Cocks