

# katie o'brien

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## KEY SKILLS

**Team work:** Strong conflict resolution, listening, clarifying, and responding skills; capable of facilitating comfortable interaction between people of different backgrounds.

**Effective communication:** Presents and explains information clearly; proficient in social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, MailChimp, Hootsuite); bilingual (French, English).

**Computer experience:** Proficient with statistical software (Stata, Microsoft Excel), word processing programs (OpenOffice, Microsoft Office, Prezi), design software (InDesign, Photoshop, Canva), and coding languages (X/HTML, CSS, Tcl/TK, R).

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## EDUCATION

**Diploma of Social Work** 2016 – 2018  
Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta; GPA: 3.95/4.0

**Bachelor of Arts in Sociology**, Minor in Biological Sciences 2011 – 2016  
University of Calgary, Alberta; GPA: 3.2/4.0

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Indigenous Canada*, University of Alberta February 2018

*Anti-Racism Workshop Series*, Centre for Race and Culture February 2018

*Child Development Assistant Certificate*, Government of Alberta March 2017

*Domestic Violence in Clinical Settings*, Women's College Hospital March 2017

*First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training*, AASAS/CCASA December 2016

*Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training*, LivingWorks Inc. May 2016

*Aboriginal Relations Leadership Training*, University of Calgary May 2016

*Respect in the Workplace*, Respect Group Inc. March 2016

*Bystander Intervention Training*, University of Calgary November 2015

*First Aid and CPR Training*, Medic First Aid November 2015

*safeTALK: Suicide Alert Helper Training*, LivingWorks Inc. September 2015

*Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training*, Crisis Prevention Institute November 2011

*Principles of Healthy Child Development*, Parks & Recreation Ontario June 2011

*Diploma of French Studies (B2)*, International Centre for French Studies April 2010

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## SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**Youth Programs Facilitator – Sirius**, Calgary, Alberta 2018 – present

- Facilitating youth-directed after-school program activities for transgender youth and cisgender girls
- Managing program volunteers, including recruitment, screening, orientation, training, support, and supervision
- Assessing the needs of program participants/families in order to connect them with appropriate resources
- Connecting with community partners to engage youth in community service projects and opportunities

**Sexual Violence Response and Awareness Practicum Student**, Mount Royal University, Alberta Winter 2017

- Developed a volunteer program for the Sexual Violence Response and Awareness program
- Revised and facilitated trauma-informed Responding to Disclosures workshops

**#CalgaryGetsConsent Project Coordinator**, Calgary Sexual Health Centre, Alberta 2017 – 2018

- Developed and facilitated workshops on bystander intervention, consent, and communication
- Collaborated with city-wide community partners on diverse initiatives to increase consent awareness
- Developed and managed Calgary Sexual Health Centre's first consent-focused social media campaign

**Girls Programs Practicum Student**, Women's Centre, Calgary, Alberta Winter 2017

- Programmed and facilitated leadership programs for girls between the ages of 10–12 and 14–17
- Provided peer support, basic needs resources, and referrals to clients in crisis
- Conducted a cross-agency research project regarding trans and non-binary inclusion policies

**LGBTQ2IA+ Sensitivity Educator**, University of Calgary, Alberta 2015 – 2016

- Facilitated sexuality education workshops, facilitating discussion among groups of up to 40 people
- Provided individual and group skill building opportunities to foster understanding of LGBTQ2IA+ issues

**Coordinator**, Students' Union Campus Food Bank, Calgary, Alberta Summer 2015

- Coordinated operations, including budget management, assembling hampers, and sorting donations

**Coordinator**, Q: The SU Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, Calgary, Alberta 2014 – 2016

- Hired, managed, trained, scheduled, and supervised a team of over 40 volunteers
- Planned and facilitated events for students to increase LGBTQ2IA+ advocacy across campus
- Managed the Outlet Project and provided peer support and crisis management to visitors and volunteers
- Lead inclusivity training workshops of <200 audience members for students, staff, and faculty members

**Peer Support Volunteer**, Q: The SU Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, Calgary, Alberta 2012 – 2014

- Mentored visitors and fellow volunteers while providing resources on sexuality and gender identity

**Summer Camp Leader**, TELUS Spark, Calgary, Alberta Summer 2012

- Created and implemented age-appropriate programs for groups of up to 20 children, ages 5–14
- Adapted programming to engage children and youth with Down's Syndrome
- Worked both independently and as the leader of a team of four camp supervisors

**Community Engagement Leader**, Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, Alberta 2011 – 2012

- Provided quality, outcome-based programs, services, and opportunities for children and youth
- Assisted children and youth in utilizing problem solving, conflict resolution, and communication skills
- Managed crisis situations effectively using problem solving and de-escalation skills

**Summer Day Camp Programmer**, Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, Alberta Summer 2011

- Supervised groups of up to 30 children, ages 6–14, in week-long daytime summer camps
- Developed public speaking and customer service skills to deliver engaging programming
- Adapted programming to engage children and youth with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Social Work Research Coordinator**, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta 2016 – 2018

- Conducted literature review regarding sexual and gender diversity education in professional programs
- Recruited for and facilitated focus groups of up to 10 undergraduate students

**Sociology Undergraduate Research Assistant**, University of Calgary, Alberta 2015 – 2016

- Transcribed interviews, paying close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy
- Completed assigned and scheduled tasks with limited direct supervision

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## LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

- Youth Action Committee Member**, Camp fYrefly, Calgary Sexual Health Centre, Alberta Summer 2017
- Collaboratively organized and planned a four-day retreat for LGBTQ2IA+ youth and allies
- Student Representative**, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta 2016 – 2018
- Voiced students' concerns and viewpoints on the Social Work Advisory Committee
  - Advocated strongly for a BSW program at Mount Royal University
  - Discussed course development plans, as well as issues and trends impacting the profession
- President**, Social Work Students' Society (3SW), Calgary, Alberta 2016 – 2018
- Collaboratively planned events for social work students at Mount Royal University
  - Organized and facilitated a practicum credit-approved LGBTQ2IA+ terminology training for students
- Committee Member**, Students' Association of Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta 2016 – 2018
- Planned and facilitated events and programs to increase LGBTQ2IA+ advocacy across campus
  - Lead intercampus communication efforts with pride groups at the University of Calgary
- Committee Member**, Project emBODY, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, Alberta 2015 – 2016
- Collaboratively organized and planned the University of Calgary's Eating Disorder Awareness Week
  - Publicly spoke on the topics of body image, body positivity, fat activism, and eating disorder diversity

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| <b>SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS</b> | <i>President's Honour Roll</i> , Mount Royal University                             | 2018       |
|                                | <i>MRU Citizenship Award</i> , Mount Royal University                               | 2017       |
|                                | <i>Pride Scholarship</i> , Mount Royal University                                   | 2017       |
|                                | <i>Access to the Future Entrance Scholarship</i> , Mount Royal University           | 2017       |
|                                | <i>Dean's Honour Roll</i> , Mount Royal University                                  | 2016, 2017 |
|                                | <i>Experiential Learning Fund</i> , Students' Association of Mount Royal University | 2016       |
|                                | <i>Travel and Conference Funding</i> , University of Calgary Students' Union        | 2015       |
|                                | <i>Dean's List</i> , University of Calgary  | 2012       |
|                                | <i>Jason Lang Scholarship</i> , Government of Alberta                               | 2012, 2017 |
|                                | <i>President's Entrance Scholarship</i> , University of Calgary                     | 2011, 2012 |
|                                | <i>Alexander Rutherford Scholarship</i> , Government of Alberta                     | 2011       |
|                                | <i>Lifetime Honours Society Member</i> , William Aberhart High School               | 2011       |

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- PUBLICATIONS** Oliver, B., Van Tassel, B., Carter, R., Ferguson, M., O'Brien, K., El Hussein, M., Pearl, C. (2017). *Creating a culture of respect: Delivering gender and sexual diversity curriculum to post-secondary students in the helping professions*. The International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference, Calgary, Alberta.

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- INTERESTS**
- Choral singing:** Active member of Spiritus Chamber Choir, section lead at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, and alumnus of the Ellison Canadian Honour Choir (Toronto, ON, 2013) and the International A Cappella School (Cheltenham, UK, 2014).
- Creative writing:** Published and commissioned free-verse poet.