

# KAT CONNOLLY

FULLSTACK DEVELOPER, TECH MENTOR, BAH && MPP



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Nelson, BC && Calgary, AB



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## PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

I am a lucky horseshoe for startups. I have helped scale two startups from small and non-existent markets to highly competitive and profitable organizations. My past employers will all agree that it is not luck that sets me apart, but my hard work, attention to detail, and willingness to tackle any task. I believe that any problem can be solved if broken down to its smallest component and I live by that in everything I do from management to development.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Fullstack Developer

*Checkfront, Victoria, BC (Remote | January 2022 - Present*

Currently I am working as a fullstack developer with Checkfront to deliver asset and event booking software. We use PHP in the backend and Typescript in the frontend while leveraging the power of React to create a seamless application that can be used on a wide variety of platforms. My current team focuses on staff experience and I participate in team meetings to create tickets, manage backlog, and identify solutions for our end user.

### General Manager, Web Dev Instructor/ Mentor

*Lighthouse Labs, Calgary, AB | January 2019 - August 2019 && August 2020 - Present*

I have worked with Lighthouse Labs in various roles since completing the fullstack bootcamp in 2018. Currently, I am working as a mentor helping students debug errors and build apps remotely. I am currently ranked as one of the top mentors in the country. As an instructor, I prepared weekly lectures ranging from coding basics and JS to React and Ruby on Rails.

Previously, I was Lighthouse's first full time employee in Calgary. I was tasked with setting up the company for success in Alberta. During my time there, I created long-lasting and meaningful relationships within the tech community, created events to spread tech literacy through the city, and carved out a place for Lighthouse to succeed after my departure. I saw 5 cohorts graduate and maintained one of the highest employment rates of any location of any bootcamp across the country.

## SKILLS

Javascript  
Typescript  
PHP  
Ruby  
React  
Rails  
NodeJS  
AWS  
GraphQL  
SQL  
MongoDB  
CSS/Sass  
Bootstrap  
HTML  
EJS  
jQuery  
AJAX  
Git

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## EDUCATION

### || Fullstack Web Dev Bootcamp

Lighthouse Labs

2018

### || Masters of Public Policy

University of Calgary

2014-2015

### || Bachelor of Arts (Hons)

Environmental Sustainability

University of King's College

2008 - 2012

## WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

### Software Engineer

*Neo Financial, Calgary, AB | Sept 2019 - July 2021*

I joined Neo when the company had only about 20 employees in total, the first female hired at the time. I helped build the core codebase and from there worked on everything from database management to front end clients and event data and infrastructure. I helped launch Neo's first three products and develop company culture across the board. I created and implemented a technical training program for new hires that was critical in onboarding software engineers of all levels. This program grew the department from under 30 to over 80 engineers in less than 6 months.

### Special Assistant

*Premier's Office: Government of Ontario, Toronto, AB | April 2016 - June 2018*

I worked beside the then Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, to manage her professional and personal schedule. In this role I juggled my responsibilities as a representative of the government and worked with staff and stakeholders to ensure that every minute of the Premier's day would run as smoothly as possible. I produced planning documents for up to a year in advance and was able to react efficiently and prioritize when major world events took place to ensure that the Premier was always reacting in an appropriate timeframe and manner.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### Tech Mentor

I am an active participant in many online communities and provide support and consulting for those who are new to software development. I often take one-on-one meetings but also speak at events with insight and advice for pivoting into the tech industry.

### Tech Blogger

I write monthly articles on Medium about tech, pivoting, and navigating remote work in 2022. Some of my more popular posts have views in the thousands.

### Panelist/Podcast Guest

I have appeared on numerous panels and podcasts to discuss my insight as someone who pivoted into tech later in life, as a female in a male dominated industry, and as someone who has helped scale multiple startups.