Nathan Knowler

Design Technologist & Frontend Developer based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

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Skills

- Expert with web platform technologies: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, DOM, SVG, ARIA, Web Components.

- Specializes working as a design technologist working closely with designers and accessibility specialists to produce living design systems that are vibrant, accessible, and maintainble.

- Expert at building, auditing, and testing accessible web applications (conforming to WCAG 2.x AA+). Adept at using screen readers and other assistive technology on multiple platforms and devices.

- Knack for web animations whether that be using CSS, Web Animation API, Motion, GSAP, Anime.

- Experience using tools and libraries such as Ariakit, Radix, React ARIA, Storybook, Chromatic/Playwright for visual regression testing, writing codemods with jscodeshift.

- Over a decade of professional experience using software development tools and practices: Git, GitHub, command line, writing tests, reviewing code, mentoring others, teaching, leading dev teams.

- Adept with web frameworks: React, Preact, Remix, Next.js, Vue, Solid, Svelte, Laravel, jQuery.

- Adept at API design for the frontend and backend.

- Experienced open source maintainer with Roots and a contributor to many other projects.

Experiences

Software Developer for Adobe

October 2025 to February 2026

Remote from Winnipeg, MB to San Francisco, CA

As a temporary contractor, I built a small Photoshop-related web app using Lit and Spectrum Web Components. It was my responsibility to explore the feasibility of the project, determine which proprietary APIs we could use, work with and provide feedback to our designer, and ultimately implement the app.

Design Technologist for Bentley Systems

October 2024 to June 2025

Remote from Winnipeg, MB to London, UK & Exton, PA

I was a core member of the design system team. I helped establish CSS conventions and wrote Lightning CSS plugins for consuming design tokens from Figma. Working with designers, accessibility specialists, and fellow developers, I implemented many React components which met a high standard for accessibility. Notable projects included: implementing flexible, accessible form controls with validation feedback; creating typography tooling, utilities, and components; implementing drag and drop for a tree component.

Senior Frontend Developer for Kettle

February 2022 to September 2024

Remote from Winnipeg, MB to Cupertino, CA & New York, NY

I built highly interactive, animated web pages that met high standards for accessiblity (based on WCAG 2.1 AA) and were localized to reach a worldwide audience for our client **Apple**.

Software Developer for Liquid Web

May 2021 to February 2022

Remote from Winnipeg, MB to San Diego, CA

I joined Liquid Web along with the rest of the Give team from Impress. I joined the core product team and took the lead in designing the core "Form Fields" API. I also conducted exploratory work for rewriting the frontend and creating a design system for the next version of the product prior to leaving.

Full Stack Developer for Impress

October 2019 to May 2021

Remote from Calgary, AB & Winnipeg, MB to San Diego, CA

I worked with a product team building a design system for a new SaaS and various applications for an existing core product. I was responsible for technology decisions, component API-design, implementing accessible components, and sometimes I worked in Figma alongside our lead designer.

Parental Leave

August to October 2019

I took a three month break to care for my wife and newborn daughter. During this time I also focused on professional development, leveling-up some skills, while looking for a full-time position.

Full Stack Developer for KM Digital

January to July 2019

Remote from Calgary, AB to Washington, DC

I was contracted to work on a WordPress Multisite offering with a Gutenberg-based (React/PHP) page builder to help streamline the agency's client projects.

Interim CTO for Rentbridge

October 2018 to April 2019

Remote from Calgary, AB to Lethbridge, AB

I filled in as the interim CTO for Rentbridge — a startup based in Alberta. During this time, I maintained the existing SaaS, created some marketing materials, started work on a design system for product and marketing, and ultimately helped find the next CTO.

Full Stack Developer for True Market

January to December 2018

Onsite in Calgary, AB

I lead a number of technology decisions, built reusable WordPress base themes and plugins to help streamline client project development and maintenance. As far as I can tell, some of these are still used today.

Freelance Web Developer

September 2013 to July 2019

Remote from the Canadian Prairies

I contracted for various small businesses, non-profits, and startups providing full stack development services. Projects ranged from full sites to web apps to prototypes to debugging and consulting. It was during this period of time that my interest in web performance, accessibility, design systems, and open source took root.