

Biographical Note

Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm is a member of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, on the Saugeen Peninsula in Ontario. Kateri is a poet, writer, spoken word artist, Indigenous arts advocate, publisher, and educator. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto Scarborough, teaching creative writing, Indigenous literatures, and oral traditions in the English Department. Previously, she has taught creative writing and Indigenous literatures at the University of Manitoba, the Banff Centre's Aboriginal Arts Program, and the En'owkin International School of Writing in partnership with the University of Victoria. Her publications encompass fiction, non-fiction, radio plays, television and film, libretti, a graphic novel, spoken word CDs, and two collections of poetry. Her teaching and creative work is firmly decolonial, a practice of cultural resurgence, affirmation and survivance. Kateri is a nominee for the 2021 Ontario Arts Council Indigenous Arts Award and a recipient of a 2016 Hnatyshyn Foundation REVEAL Indigenous Arts Award for writing. Her 2015 book of short stories, *The Stone Collection*, was a finalist for the Sarton Literary Book Awards, and her collaborative recording *A Constellation of Bones* was a nominee for a 2008 Canadian Aboriginal Music Award. Kateri was the 2011–2012 Poet Laureate for Owen Sound and North Grey. She initiated and was a co-organizer of the first Indigenous Comics Symposium in 2021 and founded and coordinated the first Honouring Words: International Indigenous Authors Celebration Tour in 2003. She is the founder and publisher of Kegdonce Press, Ontario's longest-running Indigenous literary publisher. Recently, Kateri recorded the audiobook for *The Stone Collection* and completed *Reconciling the Books*, a new collection of poetry. She is currently working on a collection of humorous short stories and her second graphic novel. Kateri lives with her mother Julie and the two loves of her life, her sons Kegdonce and Gaadoohn.