

# IT'S ABOUT MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION A TIME FOR EDUCATING AND INFORMING, SAYS PATRICIA MONAGUE



PATRICIA MONAGUE  
Column

Ahneen Boozhoo Sago Waache Salut Hello,

My true name is Cedar woman and I'm from Beau-soleil First Nation, but mostly people call me Patricia Monague.

I have been sitting with my most sacred medicine, which we call tobacco, asking my ancestors what is most important to share with you in regards to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) call to action.

We have so many examples of what residential school did to First Nations, Métis and Inuit people. So it was whispered in my ear that I should start at home. My brother, Spencer Butler, is 71 years old today, and I'm sharing his story with his permission.

He was sent to a residential school around 1957, along with my sister. When the original 215 unmarked graves were found in British Columbia, he experienced full-blown post-trau-

matic stress. He said it was like everything they knew as children was true, that the people who swore they were there to keep them safe and educate them were killing them.

They were not adults — they didn't sign up for this.

They were children — and their families thought they were doing the right thing.

My brother says you do not know what it is like to wake up afraid, walk through your day terrified and be even more terrified to sleep at night because you never knew if you were going to be the next child the priest and two nuns would escort out of the ward.

They were told the children were going home, but they knew the truth that these children are not going home. My brother wants to share his prayer: "Dear God. What did I do so wrong that you sent me here?"

For me and my family, it's not about holding anybody responsible. It's not about the almighty dollar. It's about how we're going to move forward together.

For future generations, it's about putting an end to racism and bigotry. It's about educating and informing.

### SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

The residential schools crisis line is available 24 hours a day for anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of a residential school experience. Support is available at 1-866-925-4419.

### For future generations, it's about putting an end to racism and bigotry.

For myself, it's about acknowledging that God/creator put us here as spirit human beings — which means we are all related in spirit.

The most important call to action today is not trying to assume responsibility or blame anybody, but please get a copy of the TRC and read it. Get educated and informed about First Nations/Indigenous peoples.

P.S. My entire family — six brothers and sisters — went on to experience the Sixties Scoop in 1967. I was two years old.

*Patricia Monague is a grandmother, an Anishinaabe elder and an advocate for First Nations communities.*



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## Halton Catholic District School Board Seeks Two Volunteer Committee Members to Serve on its Audit Committee

### Term of Office – Three-Year Term, Effective January 9, 2023

The Audit Committee is comprised of three Trustees and two independent members drawn from the community at large. The primary role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight.

The duties of the Audit Committee fall under the following key areas: the financial reporting process, internal control framework, risk management practices, performance and function of the board's internal and external auditors, and the board's compliance with its obligations under legislation. The Committee meets at least three times a year, plus ad hoc meetings as required. Training will be provided to all committee members to clarify roles and responsibilities of Audit Committees for the school board sector.

### Candidate Eligibility:

- Applicants must have sufficient accounting, senior financial management or other relevant business experience to understand public sector accounting and auditing standards.
- The applicant must not be a current employee or officer of the board or of any other district school board or school authority.
- The applicant must not have a parent, child or spouse currently employed by the board.

### Submission of Applications:

Suitably qualified candidates interested in serving on the Audit Committee are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28, 2022.

For more information on submitting an application, visit: [hcdsb.info/AuditCommitteeVolunteers](https://hcdsb.info/AuditCommitteeVolunteers)



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