

## **First Nations Education in British Columbia Are there Lessons for the Rest of Canada?**

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In Canada, there is a well-documented gap between the school performance of aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. Over the past 15 years, this gap has been very significantly reduced within British Columbia. The paper describes the size and nature of the improvement, using data reported by the BC Ministry of Education. It then describes several of the most important financial, policy and legislative changes that may account for the comparatively rapid improvements taking place in the province. The need for coordination and control of policies that support improvement is illustrated using a taxonomy of the policy options available to education systems. Suggestions as to how these options might be used in future are provided.