

Recognizing and Mitigating the Risks of Bill C-33, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*

Barry Anderson and Thomas Fleming
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Abstract

In Bill C-33, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*, Ottawa has tabled an important step towards improving education services for Aboriginal students attending on-reserve schools.

In its attention to organizing on-reserve schools and enabling their aggregation into reserve-based equivalents of provincial school boards, Bill C-33 charts a course fraught with risk for First Nations, and for Canada. As presently drafted, the organizational efforts required by the Bill are likely to be costly and to draw energy and attention away from the main prize – improved achievement for Aboriginal students.

The purpose of this paper is to identify the major risks and suggest improvements to the legislation that would mitigate risk and improve the probability that the Bill will become a successful starting point for significant improvements in the educational and economic results attained by on-reserve students.