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**Closing the First Nation Wellbeing Gap through Natural Resource Projects:
A Proposed Federal Strategy**

Many recent studies have argued that projected resource exploration and development over the next several decades in Canada represent an unprecedented opportunity for First Nation communities to close the well-being gap with the rest of the nation. The author argues that a large minority of First Nations is nowhere near ready to take advantage of these opportunities and cannot become so during the usual timeframes of these projects. Therefore the author calls for a proactive strategy to focus on these communities long before resource projects are even on the horizon. Otherwise these projects will either be stalled or abandoned and we will all be losers.