

## **The Case for First Nation School Authorities**

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The recently tabled panel on K-12 reserve school reform concluded the status quo is a "non-system" in which each reserve manages its own school independently. It recommended creation of First Nation "school authorities" that would manage a group of reserve schools. Such "authorities" would be accountable to the First Nations living within the region, but schools would no longer be primarily accountable to individual band councils.

The panel insists there should be no standardized "education authority" imposed from one end of the country to the other. Nonetheless, they acknowledge a necessary condition for better school outcomes is that "education authorities" be able to exercise many of the activities performed by school boards for provincial schools. This paper discusses the range of functions such authorities should perform and makes suggestions for implementing change.