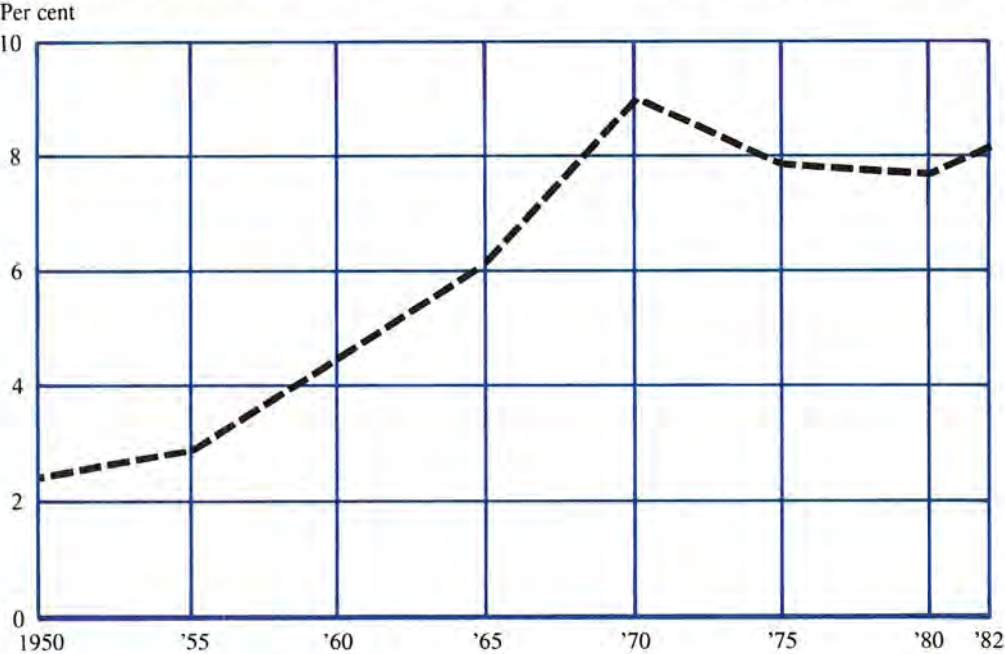


Chart 4.2
Education expenditures as a percentage of gross national product, 1950-82



4.3 Postsecondary education

4.3.1 Universities and degree-granting colleges

Several types of degree-granting institutions exist in Canada. Universities have, as a minimum, degree programs in arts and sciences; liberal arts colleges are smaller institutions with degree programs, usually only in arts; theological colleges grant degrees exclusively in theology; other specialized colleges offer degree programs in a single field, such as engineering, art or education. There are more than 60 degree-granting institutions in Canada.

History. The first institutions in Canada followed European models. The Séminaire de Québec, founded in 1663, was the base upon which Université Laval was established in 1852. The oldest English-language institution, King's College, at Windsor, NS opened in 1789. By 1867 Quebec had three universities and 712 classical colleges. There were three universities in New Brunswick, five in Nova Scotia and seven in Ontario. As well as in Nova Scotia, King's colleges had been established in New Brunswick and Ontario. Queen's and Victoria universities, supported by the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, had been chartered in Ontario. Their purpose was to train clergy and a small, select group of laymen who wished to enter the professions. Teaching concentrated on theology, philosophy, the classics, medicine and law.

About the middle of the 19th century McGill University introduced courses in natural sciences, opened a normal school for elementary teachers and pioneered instruction in applied science and engineering. Similar changes were taking place at other universities — Dalhousie in Halifax, Queen's in Kingston, and the University of Toronto.

While the trend in English-language institutions was toward practical and scientific studies and secular control, in the French-language sector emphasis continued on classical studies under clerical control.

When the four western provinces were settled, other structures began to emerge. The American example of land-grant colleges led to a strong commitment to extension programs and community service. The University of Manitoba was granted a charter in 1877. Provincial universities were established in Alberta in 1908 and in Saskatchewan in 1909. The University of British Columbia, although chartered in 1908, did not open until 1915. By the outbreak of World War I, a score of universities in Canada had developed distinctive characteristics. To the traditional faculties of theology, law and medicine, schools of engineering, agriculture, forestry, education, dentistry and home economics had been added.