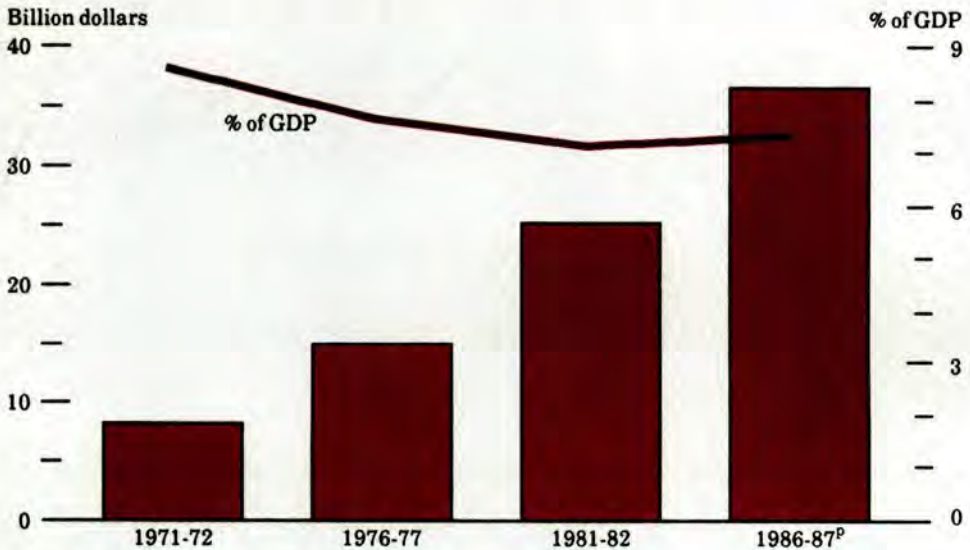


Chart 4.2

Expenditures on education and percent of Gross Domestic Product

^P Preliminary.

4.2 Elementary and secondary schools

4.2.1 Administration and organization

Each province has a department of education headed by a minister who is an elected member of the provincial cabinet or, in the case of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, a councillor.

While the education minister has general authority, day-to-day operation of the department is carried out by a deputy minister who advises the minister and supervises all functions of the department. These functions include: supervision and inspection of elementary and secondary schools; provision of curriculum and school organization guidelines; approval of new courses and textbooks; production of curriculum material; finance; teacher certification; prescription of regulations for trustees and teachers; research; and support services such as libraries, health and transportation.

In most provinces, responsibility for teacher training has been transferred from teachers' colleges to universities. Increasingly, an elementary teacher must have a bachelor's degree. The Nova Scotia Teachers' College is the only remaining institution of its kind.

Schools in all provinces are established under a public school act and operated by local

authorities answering to the provincial government and resident ratepayers. Provincial authorities delineate school board areas and the responsibilities of boards. With the growth of cities and towns, and of educational facilities and requirements, small local boards have been consolidated into central, regional or county units with jurisdiction over both elementary and secondary schools in a wider area. The boards, composed of elected or appointed trustees or commissioners, are responsible for school management. Their powers, determined and delegated by the legislature or education departments, vary from province to province. Generally, they handle the business aspects of education — establishment and maintenance of schools, appointment of teachers, purchase of supplies and equipment, details of school construction, and budget preparation. Boards are authorized to levy taxes or to requisition taxes from municipal governments and manage grants from the department.

At the elementary and secondary levels, schools are classified according to the nature of control: public, private or federal. Public schools, including Protestant and Roman Catholic separate schools, are operated by local education authorities according to public school acts of the provinces.