

Internal Diversity in Social Policy Regimes: The Case of Canada's Four Major Provinces

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Literature

- Esping-Andersen's typology
- Where does Canada fit in the typology?
 - Liberal or hybrid? (Larocque, 2009)
- Internal diversity due to provincial responsibility for many social policy domains (Imbeau et al., 2000; Boychuk, 1998)
 - Quebec exceptionalism? (Noël, 2011; Bernard and Raiq, 2011; Bernard and Saint-Arnaud, 2004; Jensen, 2002)
- Trend away from 'passive' to 'active' policies (van den Berg et al., 1997; Bonoli, 2010)

Research Questions

- Do the provinces have divergent patterns of expenditure on social policies intended to support the income of vulnerable populations?
- Has the share of “active labour market policies” become more important in the provinces?
- What are the implications of those policies for the populations they target?

Data and Methods

- Expenditure figures on all policies and programs intended to support the incomes of vulnerable populations or their (re-)integration into the labour market
 - Operating expenses or benefits paid out as % of GDP
 - Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta
 - Time-frame: 2002-2009
 - Sources: budget documents, annual reports, fiscal documents found on provincial ministries or departments' websites

Data and Methods

Income support programs

- Income assistance for the able-bodied and the disabled
- Affordable housing
- Workplace injury compensation programs
- Benefits and services for the integration of disabled individuals in their community
- Provincial public-sector pension programs

‘Activating’ programs

- Training programs
- Job search services
- Facilitating the integration of skilled migrant labour into local markets
- Daycare subsidies
- Parental leave (Quebec)

Data and Methods

- Third distinction:
 - Programs specifically aimed at supporting families
 - Child Benefits
 - Public daycare or daycare subsidies
 - Parental leave (Quebec)

Results

Figure 1. Family Support and Other Expenditures, 2008-2009

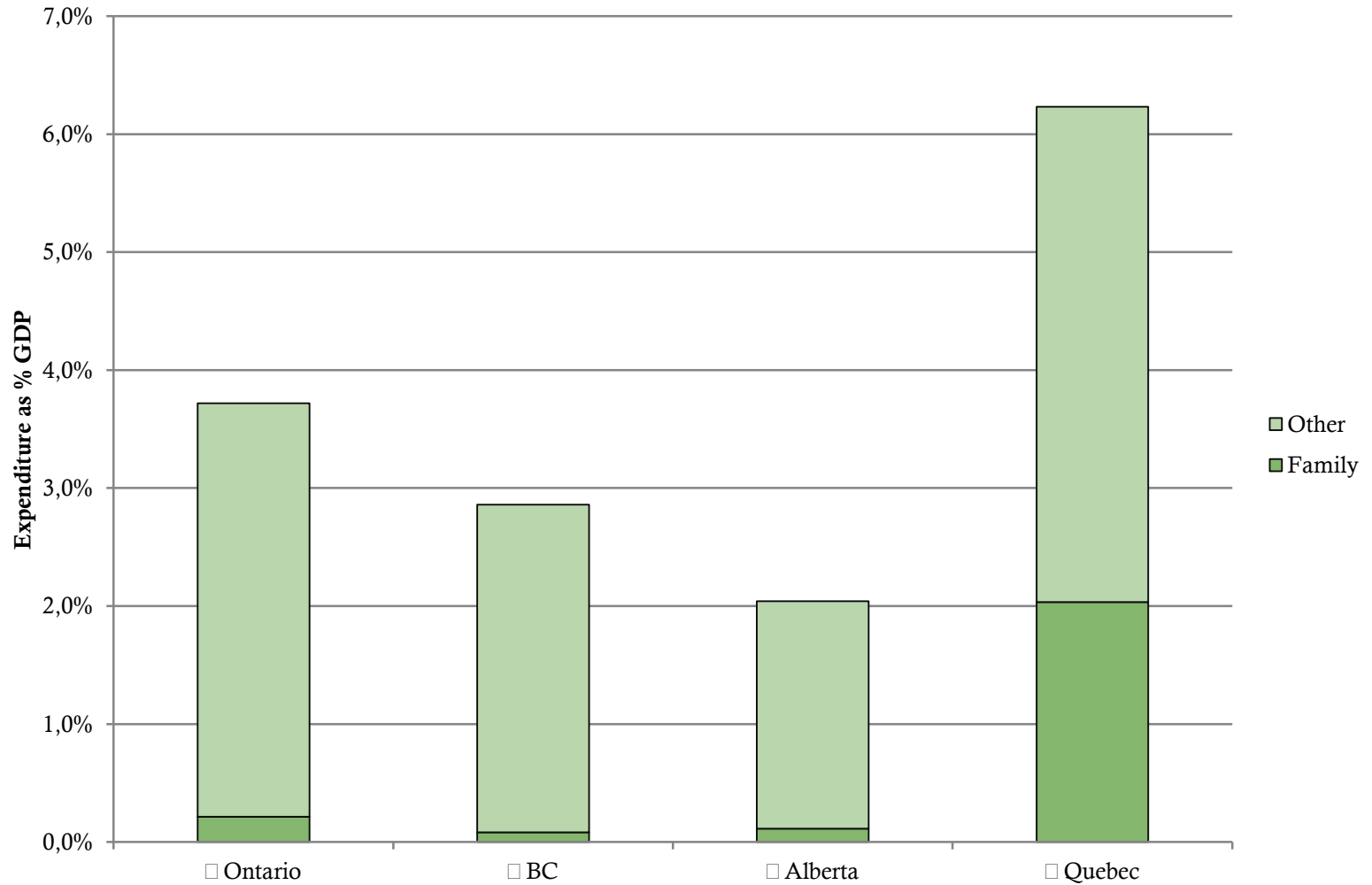


Figure 2. Income Support Expenditures, 2002-2003 to 2008-2009

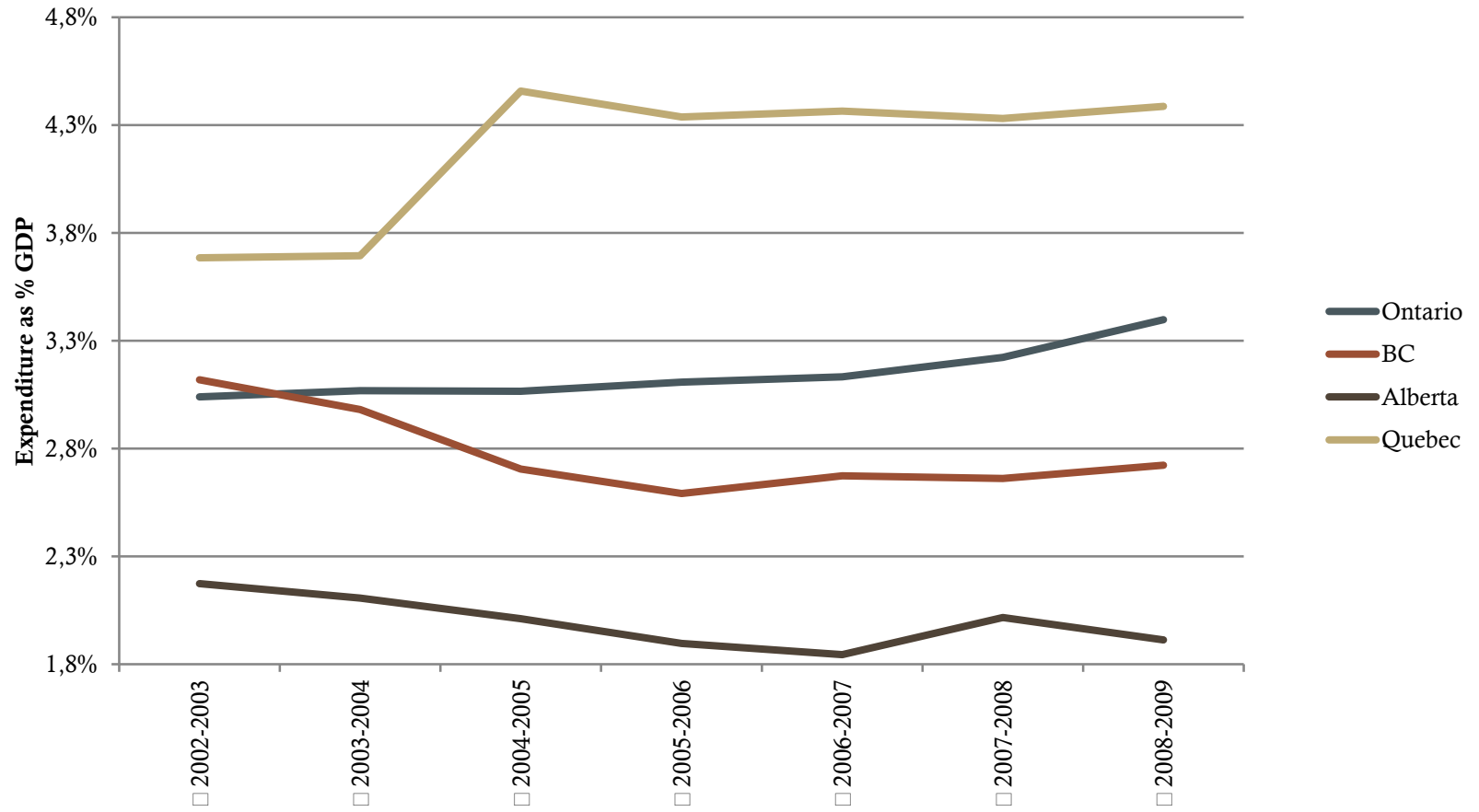


Figure 3. Family Income Support Expenditures, 2002-2003 to 2008-2009

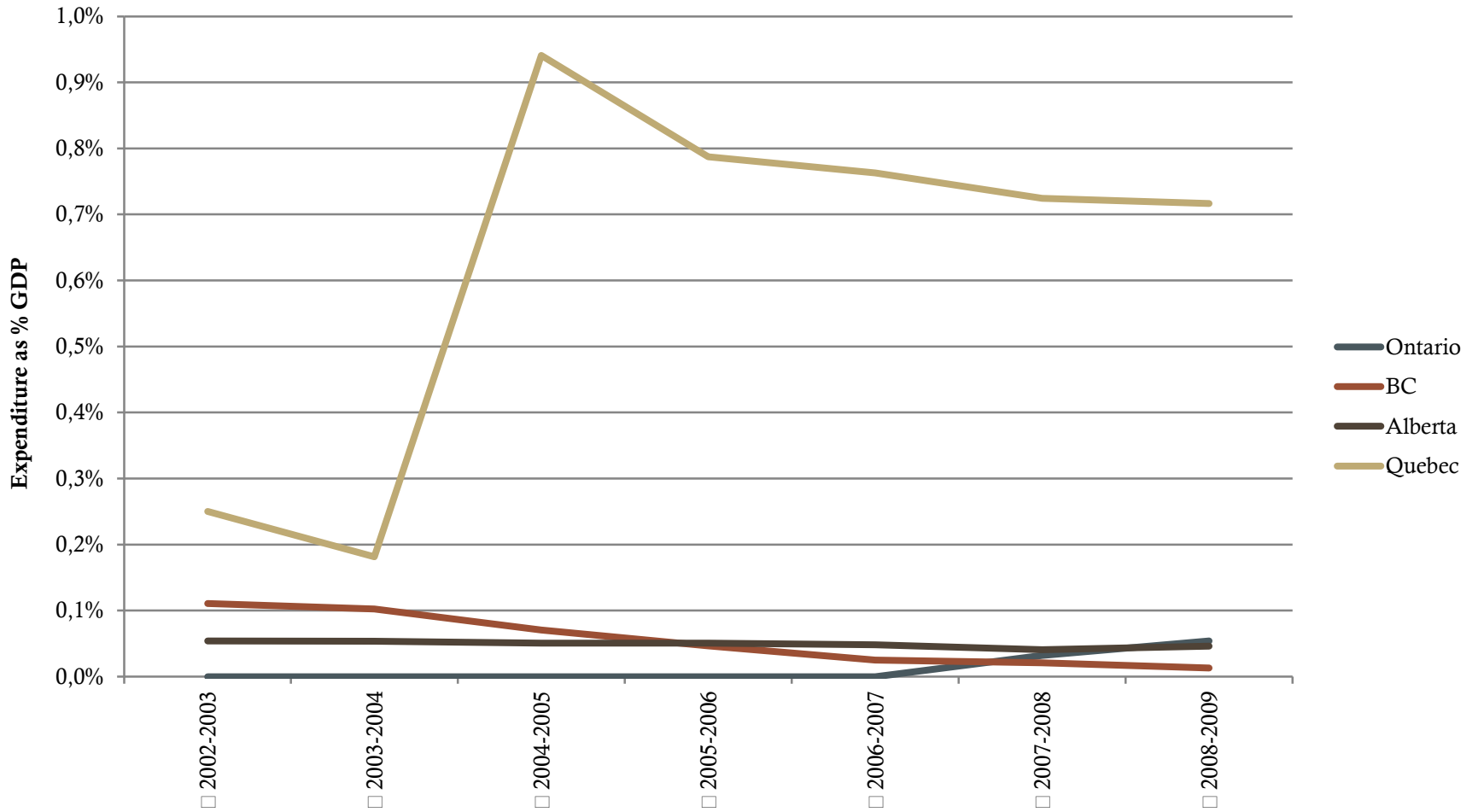


Table 1. Poverty Rates Before and After Taxes and Transfers for Different Family Types in the Four Provinces (percentage of households below 50% of the median income)

	All Households		Biparental Families		Single-parent Families		Childless households	
	Before taxes and transfers	After taxes and transfers	Before taxes and transfers	After taxes and transfers	Before taxes and transfers	After taxes and transfers	Before taxes and transfers	After taxes and transfers
Ontario	24,2	13,9	15,3	10,3	57,5	40,8	26,9	13,3
BC	24,4	16,6	19,5	15,1	48,4	29,9	24,7	16,1
Alberta	20,0	11,3	13,0	10	50,0	35,2	21,4	10,0
Quebec	25,0	9,8	16,4	5,7	44,3	20,6	27,9	10,6

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, 2008

Figure 4. Activation Expenditures, 2002-2003 to 2008-2009

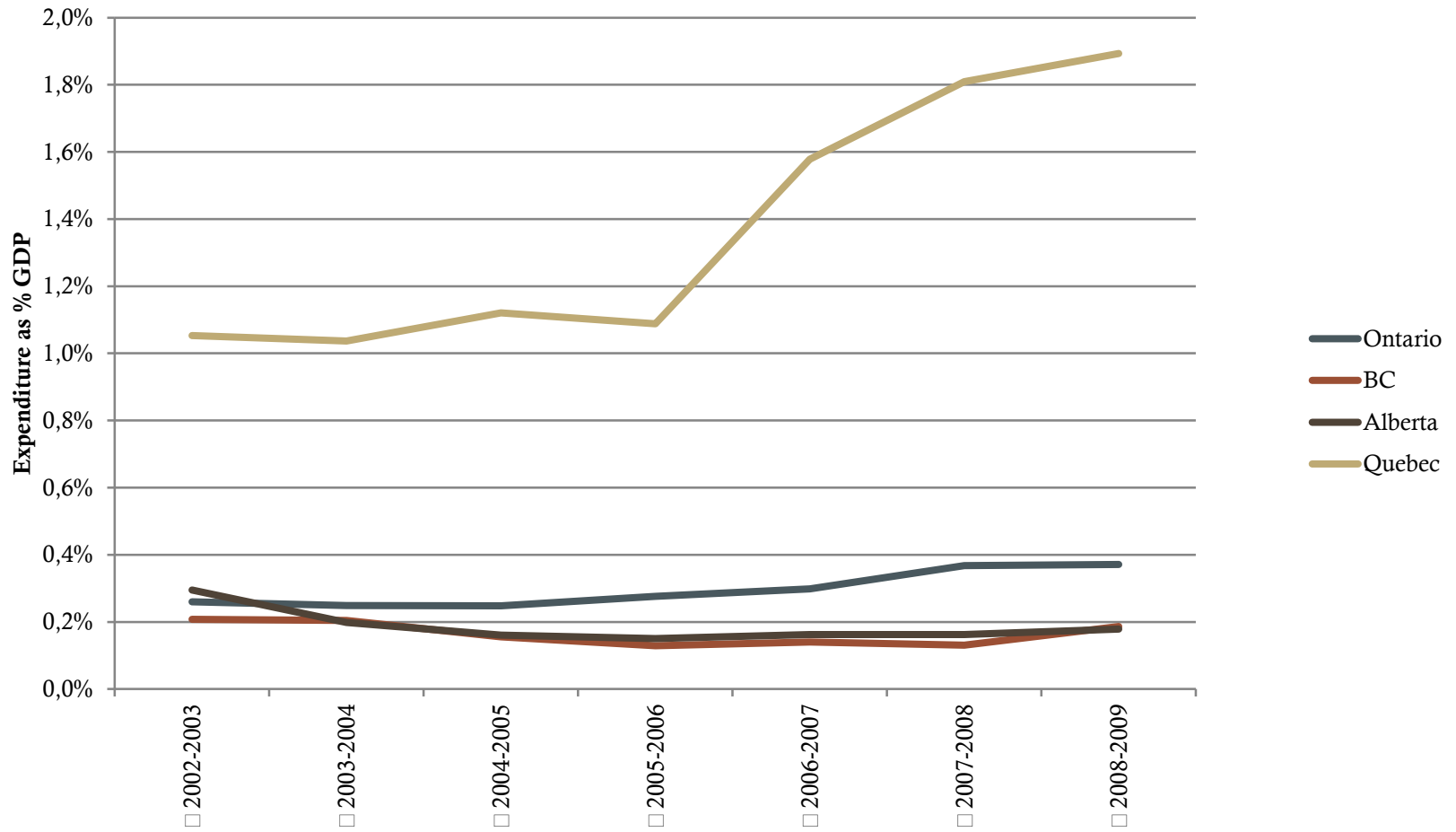
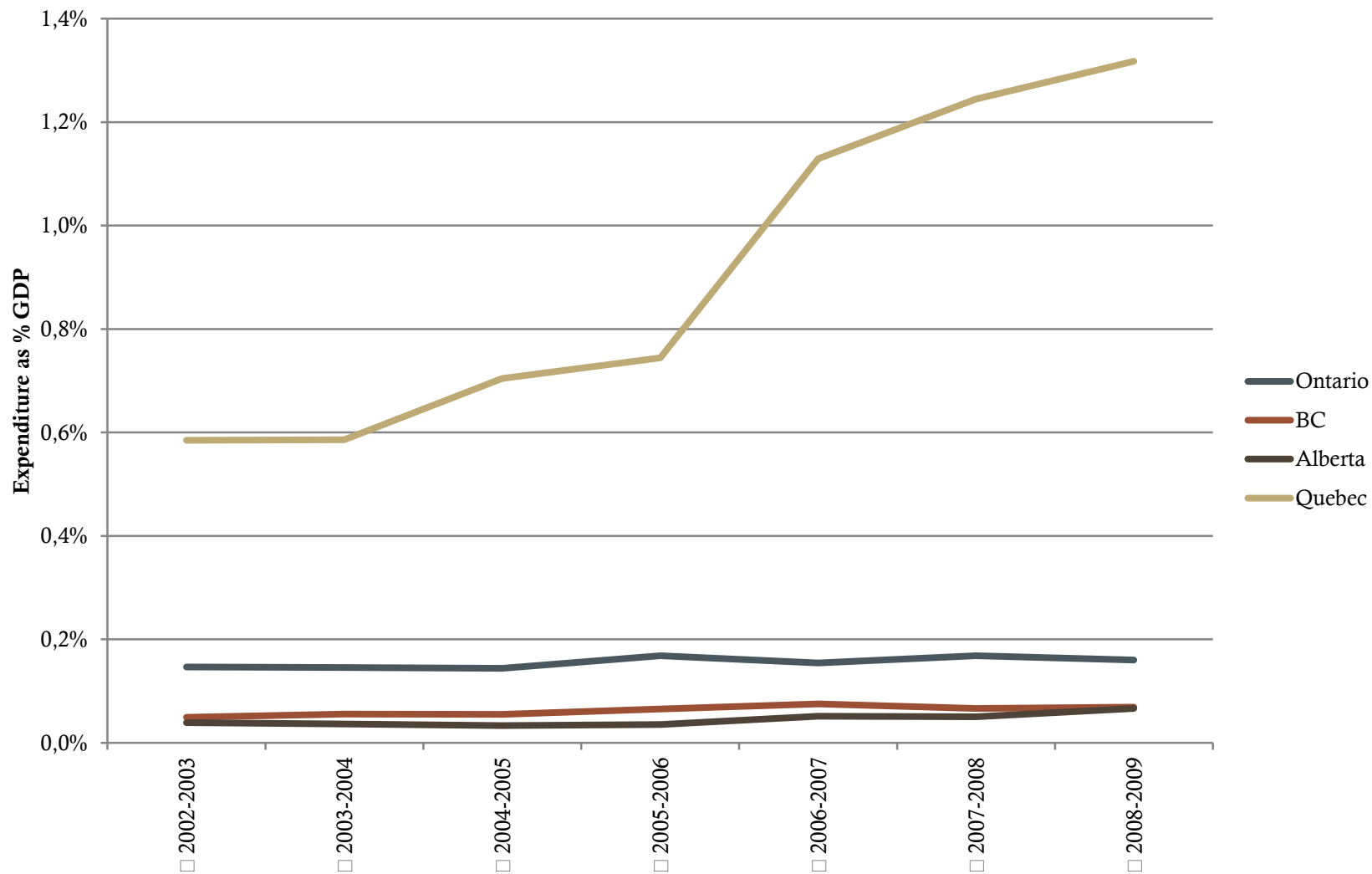
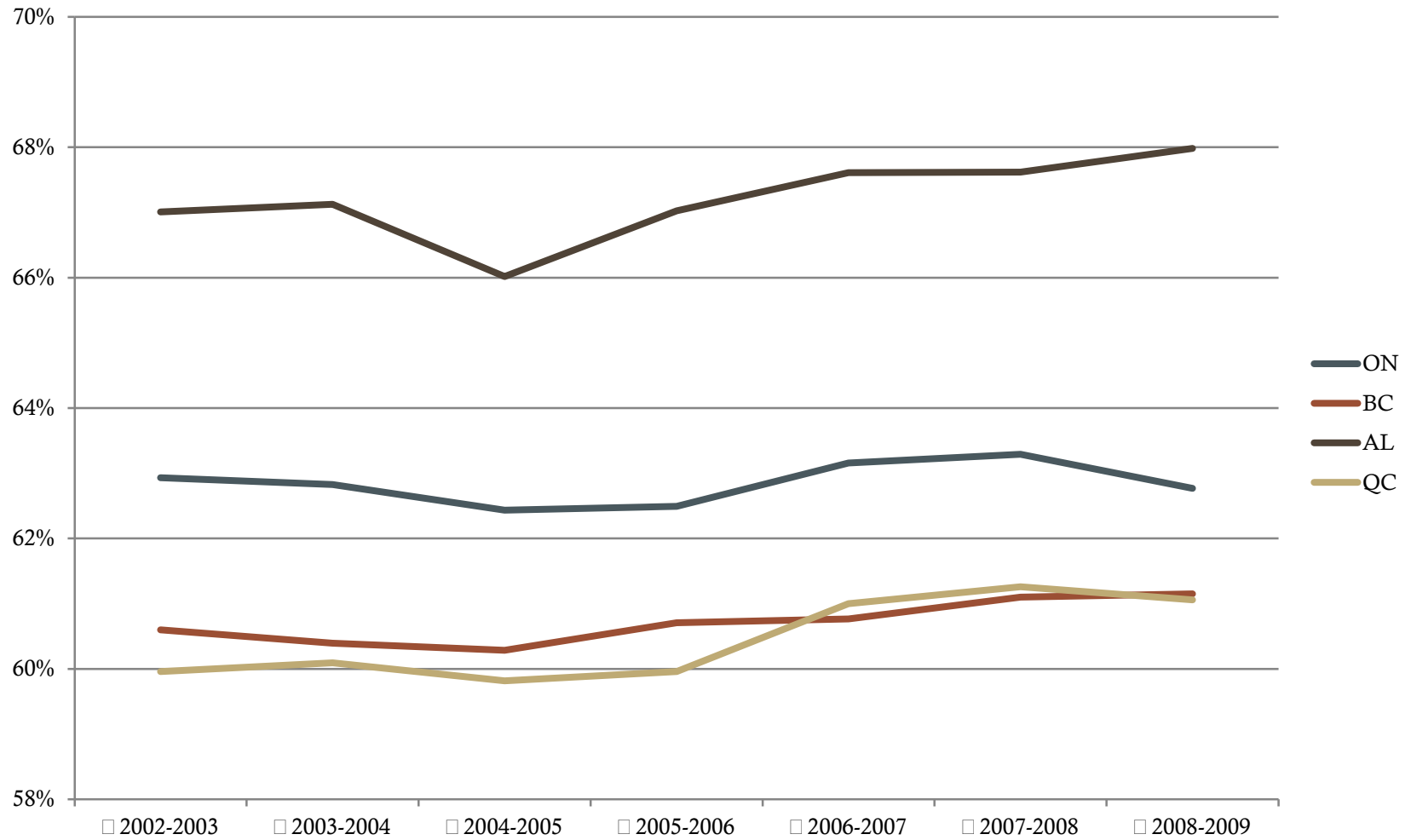


Figure 5. Work and Family Reconciliation Expenditures, 2002-2003 to 2008-2009

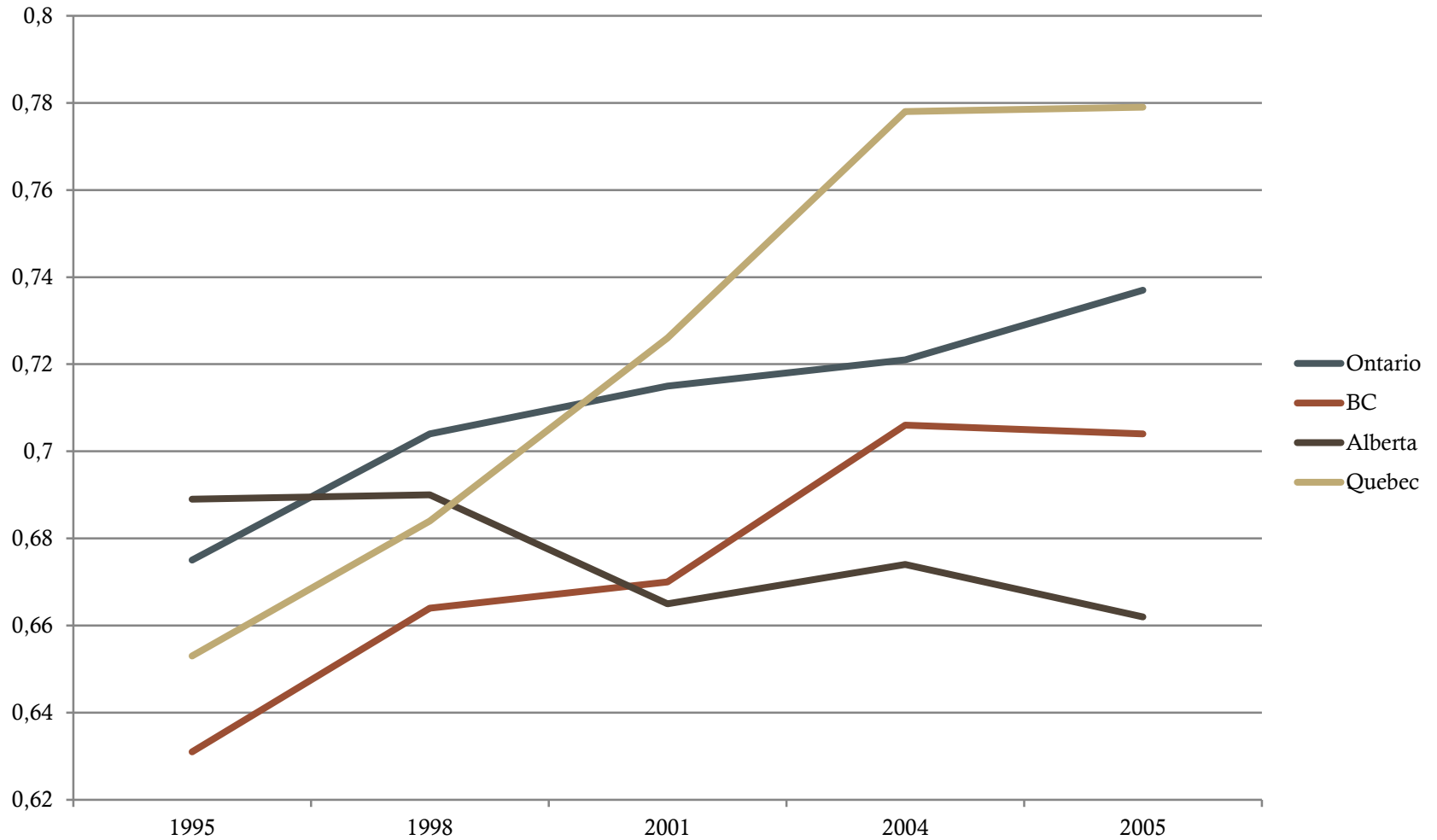


**Figure 6. Annual Female Labour Force Participation Rates,
2002-2003 to 2008-2009**



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 7. Annual Labour Force Participation Rates for Women 25 to 54 with Children under 6, 1995 to 2005



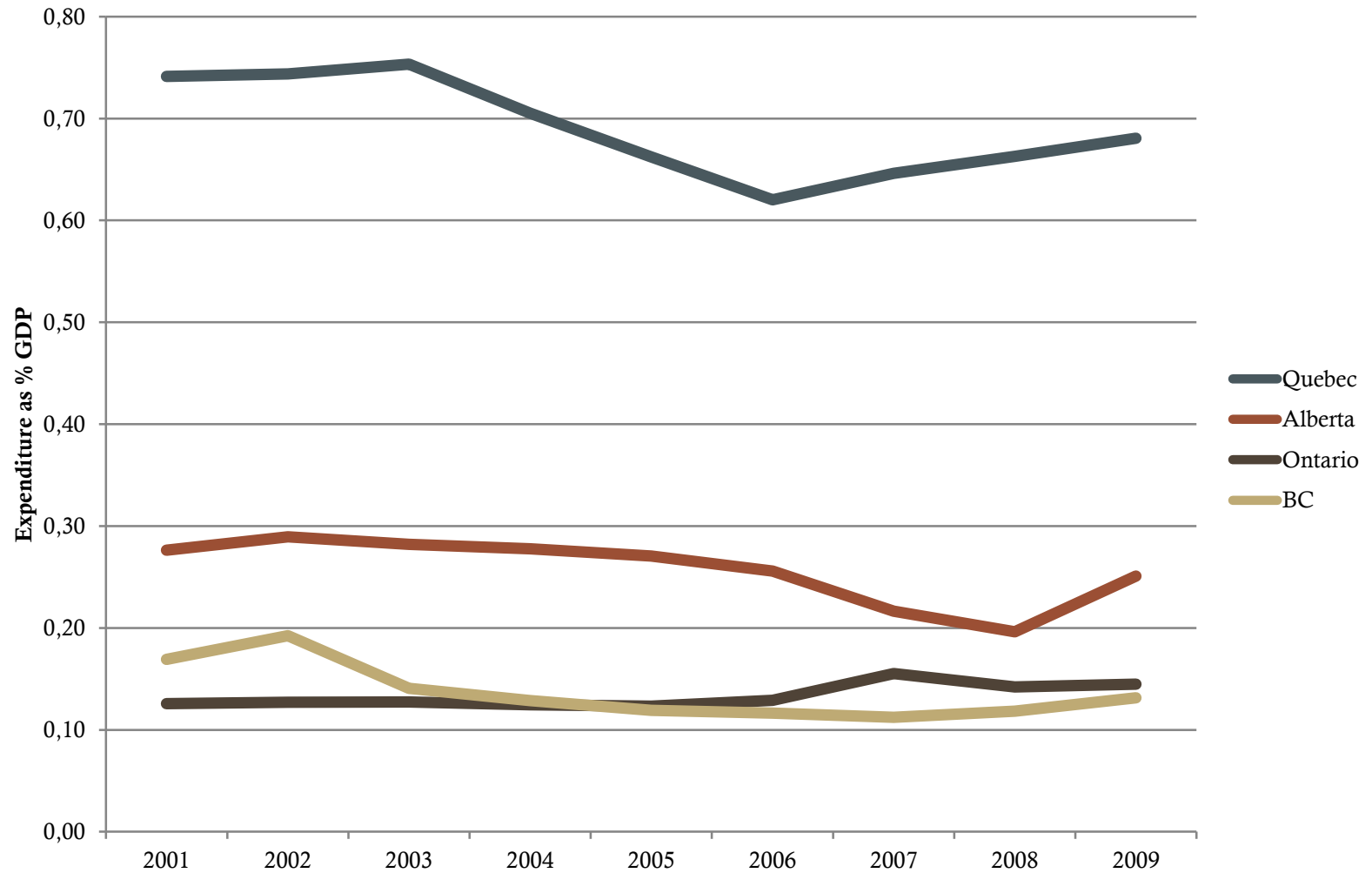
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Conclusions

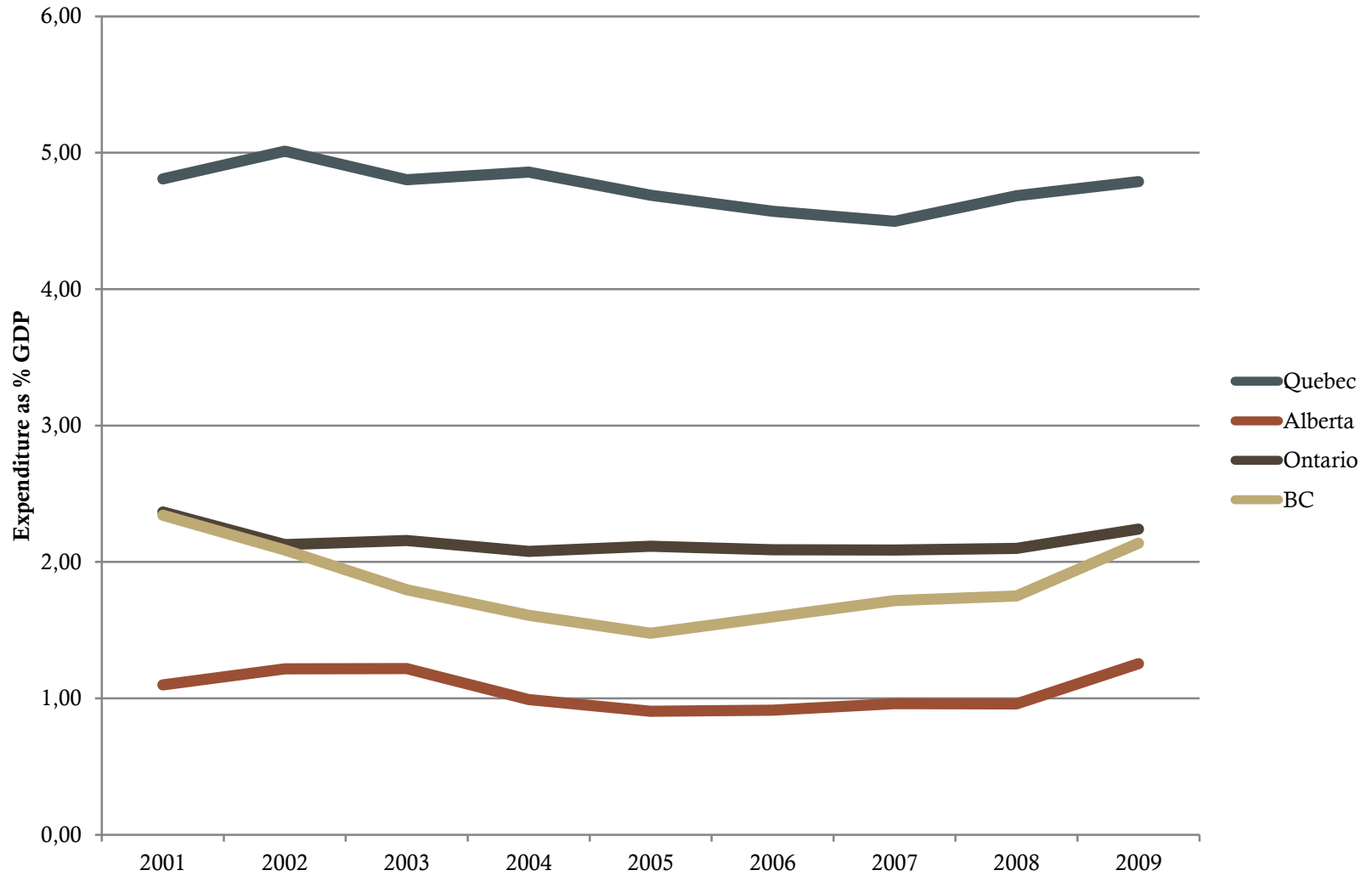
- Quebec emerges as the largest program spender, mostly due to its policies supporting families with children
- Alberta as the least generous
- Ontario and British Columbia fall somewhere in between
- Possible effects of policies on:
 - Poverty
 - Labour force participation of mothers of young children

Cansim data

Activation program expenditures, 2001-2009



Income support program expenditures, 2001-2009



Other social services expenditures, 2001-2009

