

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

A Port in the Storm Inc.

Responses

1. Economic Recovery and Growth

Given the current climate of federal and global fiscal restraint, what specific federal measures do you feel are needed for a sustained economic recovery and enhanced economic growth in Canada?

Governments at all levels must find a way to give strong support to those organizations within the non-profit sector that demonstrate ability to secure strong supportive funding relationships within the private sector. The need for social health and health related programs escalates during trying economic times. Federal funding support is necessary and should not be discontinued. Instead, organizations receiving federal support should be those who have established relationships with Foundations, Philanthropists and within the private sector and, whose longer term strategic plan includes measures to eliminate dependency on gov to fund.

2. Job Creation

As Canadian companies face pressures resulting from such factors as uncertainty about the U.S. economic recovery, a sovereign debt crisis in Europe, and competition from a number of developed and developing countries, what specific federal actions do you believe should be taken to promote job creation in Canada, including that which occurs as a result of enhanced internal and international trade?

As a country we are fortunate to have two significant sources of untapped potential. That potential lies within our natural resources (oil, gas, mining, etc) and our first nations populations. Since the first nation population is indeed the fastest growing population in Canada and since most of our natural resources lie within areas designated first nation reserve, traditional land-use area, etc., we need to find a way to engage first nations so that they can become the beneficiaries of the resource developments. Not an easy task at all! That said, the model created by Manitoba Hydro albeit very expensive, has paid huge dividends. Equity ownership arrangements and joint development agreements have resulted in a unified vision for resource development in northern Manitoba, resource developments supported by all Manitobans including First Nations. The process used to negotiated the agreements was expensive but has resulted in successful hydroelectric developments, several which are overlapping, in Manitoba's north.

3. Demographic Change

What specific federal measures do you think should be implemented to help the country address the consequences of, and challenges associated with, the aging of the Canadian population and of skills shortages?

4. Productivity

With labour market challenges arising in part as a result of the aging of Canada's population and an ongoing focus on the actions needed for competitiveness, what specific federal initiatives are needed in order to increase productivity in Canada?

5. Other Challenges

With some Canadian individuals, businesses and communities facing particular challenges at this time, in your view, who is facing the most challenges, what are the challenges that are being faced and what specific federal actions are needed to address these challenges?