

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Laura April

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?

I believe that the Harper Government should stick to the ideals of their party and stop bailing out banks and businesses that are in danger of bankruptcy -- to do otherwise will only prolong the inevitable and put future generations in debt. However, I do think that the government should continue, and even ramp-up, financial support for social programs and encourage small start-up businesses, to help them through the difficult time. Oh, and also: forgive student debt. Burdening young people with tens of thousands of dollars in debt fresh out of school only leads to them wasting time at dead-end jobs in an attempt to make ends meet, rather than pursuing their passions and bettering our country. Thank you.

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?

Again, leave large companies and well-established businesses alone -- some will fail, but the market will eventually be stronger for it. However, the government should be encouraging well-planned new businesses, especially small entrepreneurial projects with tax rebates and even start-up grants.

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?

Hmm... Better skilled trades programs in secondary schools and stopping the promotion of rhetoric that suggests pursuing a bachelor's degree is somehow better than going into the trades. No comment on how to deal with the aging population.

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?

More funding for palliative care for seniors. Debt-relief for post-secondary grads with high marks upon graduation. Better immigration policies that recognize accredited foreign professional degrees.

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?

I am biased, because I somewhat recently graduated from university with a significant amount of debt, but I think that investing in young professionals and not gouging them with high interest rates and steep monthly payments for the first decade or so of their careers would be in the best interest of all Canadians. Seniors are also facing many challenges, as the increase in their demographic is outpacing the number of workers who dedicate their careers to caring for our elders.