

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

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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?

Increase corporate taxes and close corporate tax loopholes. Invest in green technology rather than subsidizing oil companies. Enhance ability of local governments to engage in local provisioning by not signing over all our sovereignty in CETA and the CPP.

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?

I reject the assumption that job creation necessarily results from enhanced internal and international trade, especially when that trade is, as it is in my province, almost entirely raw materials/resources. This provides a very limited range of jobs, almost entirely filled by men, that are subject to the resource's boom-bust cycle. We need diversity.

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?

Make sure our public healthcare system (Medicare) is well-funded. Spend more on preventative health measures, such as education relating to diet and support of healthy foods rather than unhealthy commodities, and money will be saved in the long run. Support the opening of more training and education spots to fill skills shortages and reach out to First Nations people.

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?

I reject the premise that productivity needs to be increased. Please read up on steady-state economics, and degrowth. We have enough wealth that, were it redistributed more equally, all would do well and no one would have to over- or under-work.

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?

Northern communities are facing the most challenges: systemic racism, the effects of climate change, the high cost of food, and lack of employment opportunities. The federal government needs to implement regulations and incentives to cut carbon emissions drastically, as well as invest in green technology. More consultation with northern people would provide answers to the other challenges.

