

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?

Invest in the development of renewable and green energies. Limit the astronomical military spending to only what is essential. Limit the money allocated to building new prisons and consider penalties that focus on rehabilitating criminals. (Criminals cost the government a fortune, and instead of focusing on the death penalty, I think we should re-evaluate the penalties imposed on young offenders and for petty crimes.) Invest in the local economy to generate revenue internally, without doing business with any foreign subcontractors. I am including culture in this economy, since it benefits from the country's influence abroad.

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?

Nationalize one bank. This will help stabilize our economy, which will no longer be at the mercy of speculation-based fluctuations. This stability will attract foreign countries that will see our economy as a symbol of consistency.

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?

Focus on immigration. Improve access to a specialized workforce from outside Canada.

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?

To promote our country, invest in culture. The notion of competition that you favour is unhealthy. The country should not be looking to compete. We must try to satisfy ourselves. Support local economies and green energies by becoming an environmental leader and model. These are solutions that the government seems to ignore, but that could be very effective.

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?

The government must stop making cuts to culture and social services (community, the environment, etc.). These are insignificant, or even microscopic, cuts (to services that are very important nonetheless) in an economy where that money could be taken from useless investments in the army. This would help cultural and ethnic communities benefit from the services they deserve and that highlight their importance and contribution to the Canadian community.