

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?

Although I understand that the federal government had to cut jobs in the public service, some departments seem to have been hit unfairly (e.g. Parks Canada). Above all, I do not see how cutting jobs will stimulate economic recovery. It is also important to invest in small community-based businesses and cultural organizations that work closely with the local population to benefit the community.

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?

Invest in certain public programs to generate employment while delivering services to Canadians. Invest in the future by investing in the environment and in local economies. Help fund community, cultural and artistic organizations of all sizes to diversify Canada's environmental economy. Cultural and artistic organizations serve as excellent ambassadors for Canada both at home and abroad.

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?

Create and fund programs tailored to our aging population and its needs, to make this a great place to live. It is also important not to disregard the needs of other generations, specifically young people who are just starting out in the workforce. In light of the economic situation and the job cuts in both the public and private sectors, these young people will have a harder time finding a secure job in their field of study. Immigration might be one way to solve the labour shortage that some sectors are experiencing or will experience in the future.

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?

Encourage small business start-ups. Invest in arts and culture. Not only do artistic and cultural endeavours help keep Canadians in good mental health, but they also stimulate local economies. Investment in arts and culture through increased funding for federal public agencies (e.g. Canada Council for the Arts and Radio-Canada) will enable the sector to better fulfill its growth potential. That development will have a direct impact on local economies, generating jobs within artistic and cultural organizations and the community.

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 do not think that any one sector is facing more challenges than the rest. Clearly, some industries have not been treated well, including organizations that work directly or indirectly in the environmental sector (research and protection alike), certain international agencies, particularly those that work with women, and artistic and cultural organizations. I also think that the younger generations who will soon be entering the workforce are slightly more affected, given that the tough economic climate, especially the public sector cuts, will make it harder for them to find a job when they finish school.