

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Matthew Buchanan

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?

It's time to cancel the multi billion dollar fighter/bomber program. This is a needless extravagance at this time. Scale back other military expenses, this department is overfunded at the present time and must be cut. Time to reverse the cuts to VIA Rail Canada. A free country needs to have a balanced transportation policy that is truly multi-modal. A transportation system that forces people into cars and planes is not choice. Lets face it all forms of transportation in Canada are subsidized one way or another. The capital funding for VIA in the past few years was very welcome, but it is counter-productive to now slash operating funds. VIA Rail must be improved, it needs a to be run by more competent people who are genuinely interested in improving passenger rail. A strategy to improve public transit in cities and towns should be implemented that will make a real difference.

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?

Tax incentives for clean energy projects such as wind, solar, and micro hydro power. Stop subsidizing coal and oil.

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?

Allow more immigration and improve the education system. Let people work as long as they want. Find a way to pass on the knowledge of older workers to a new generation.

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?

A carbon tax would tax big polluters who currently have very little incentive to improve the energy efficiency of industrial processes. Cutting the size of the Prime Minister's office and the salaries of MP's and other staff would send a message that the government is sharing the pain of cutbacks.

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?

Manufacturing sector in Ontario is being hit hard by rising energy costs. Students are paying too much for university education. More scholarships and loan forgiveness would help them. High income earners should pay higher taxes to help reduce the deficit and pay for the services that are required by everyone. The people who have profited off the commodity boom are doing okay, ask them to contribute more to society and the greater good of Canada. Taxes are essential to a modern fair and equitable society, and they shouldn't be demonized.