

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

corporation of the City of Oshawa

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?

-continue to provide financial support for infrastructure improvements through stimulus funding and gas tax -freeze salary and wage increases for federal civil service and crown corporation employees - maintain HST levels, increase federal income taxation rates for high income earners (>\$200K)

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?

-provide financial incentives for companies to hire recent post secondary graduates -increase tax incentives for research and development especially in IT sector -promote work sharing programs through EI. -reverse decision to extend OAS to 67 to encourage older workers to leave the workforce thus creating opportunities for younger workers

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?

-continue to actively recruit new immigrants with specific skills -facilitate new immigrants assimilation into the job market -encourage post secondary institutions to provide programs that focus on specific skills training

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?

-provide incentives for investment in new equipment and technology -reduce size of federal civil service, 'do more with less' -continue programs that encourage public/private sector partnerships

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?

-providing meaningful career/job opportunities for today's younger employees and students who will be entering the labour force over the next several years. Measures outlined earlier in this survey help to address this challenge -providing a sound financial future for this group through adequate pensions and social programs such as medicare. This would require fundamental changes to the Canada Pension Plan including the funding formula. -Health care spending also needs review. Administration costs appear

to be out of proportion to services and elective medical procedures are taking resources away from the provision of basic services.