

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Paul Clark

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?

Continued support of programs designed to encourage energy efficiency at both the corporation and individual level Stimulus programs to encourage innovation and tech commercialization

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?

Stepped up programs to encourage training especially in the skilled trades Faster tracking of accreditation of credentials for skilled immigrants

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?

see previous comment on training for 2. portability of pensions promotion of preventative medicine vs. reactionary approach

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?

Continued knock down of trade barriers Promotion of value added approach to capitalizing on our natural resources Help provide easier pathways to capitalization, especially of new equipment and new venture capital Continued and expanded support of programs such as SDTC which promote clean, sustainable technologies

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 Canada is under severe challenge. The strong Canadian dollar, capital accessibility, skilled labour shortages are all contributing to the situation. Innovation and tech commercialization are inadequate in this country. We need to rebalance our focus on the funding of basic R&D and move more emphasis on funding scale up of promising R&D.