

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?

Investments in renewable energy are necessary for successful long term sustained growth. Countries, such as Germany and China, are investing billions of dollars into these technologies because of intelligent foresight regarding the future of global energy infrastructure. These technologies need to be subsidized the same way resource extraction initiatives are currently being subsidized. Royalty rates need to be adjusted to reflect the true cost of these projects, both to the people and the environment. The priority should be Canada's long term sustained growth, rather than focusing on short term investments which benefit only the wealthy and those in positions of power.

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?

Canada must look at other economically strong countries for suggestion to help create job growth policy. Germany, in the face of the failing Euro, is successfully investing in renewable energy and creating many jobs in the process. We must invest in green technology and focus on creating jobs in these industries. Global energy infrastructure nears a pivotal point. Canada must be a leader in this effort, which will in turn create jobs.

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?

Canada must invest in improved health care. Our population is aging and our health care system will soon be under never before seen stress. The budget needs to add funding to health care, rather than cut it. We need to assess where we will suffer the most skills shortages, and develop programs to help encourage young persons to pursue careers in these professions.

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?

Canada must continue to promote skilled foreign citizens moving to Canada. We must ensure they have long term jobs and not simply filling short term positions. Canada does not have enough young citizens to fill these roles, yet the government is tightening restrictions as to who we will allow into our country. We must be realistic about our aging population and our immigration policy needs to encourage skilled workers to consider moving to Canada.

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?

Northern communities are faced with an ever-growing list of challenges. The income gap continues to grow, while the government continues to ignore the situation. Corporate interests are being placed in a higher priority than that of Canadian citizens. The situation is quickly becoming worse, and ignoring it will only dig us deeper into the hole we have already dug. The current government policy is short term and will only add to the list of foreseeable problems within Canada's future.