

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?

Reinstate the two percentage points that were unwisely cut from the GST early in the Harper minority mandate. Apply the funds to programs that have a proven track record of creating jobs and generating income for the country. For example, arts and science programs that have been recently cut. Support research into technologies that are future-oriented rather than past-oriented. For example, support renewable energy initiatives rather than supporting older technology such as tar sands.

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?

Add value to Canada's resources: support refinement of crude oil and tar sands in the country. Process timber into value-added products such as fine paper, furniture, engineered wood, and so on. Examine other industries that export raw materials and develop ways to add value. Return to previous levels of support for arts and sciences. These segments of the economy are known to generate jobs at a very high rate of return on investment. Support skills training, for example plumbing, electrical, masonry, HVAC, carpentry, cabinetry, etc.

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?

As noted before, support trades training such as plumbing, electrical, welding, HVAC, carpentry, cabinetry, etc. Provide better support for the elderly including home care and end-of-life choices including assisted suicide. Mandate a new profession for assisted suicide that excludes doctors.

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?

Allow trade unions to flourish, since productivity was higher in the past when trade unions had more power. Tax unproductive activities such as real estate speculation, bond trading, defense contracting, etc.

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?

All value-added sectors, such as the arts, sciences, manufacturing, refining, processing, telecommunications, alternative energy, etc, need increased direct funding or tax incentives in order to flourish. Heavily subsidized primary resource industries such as mining, oil, tar sands, forestry, hydro, etc., need to have their subsidies cut so that value-added sectors can receive more funding.