

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Erika Couto

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?

Canada needs to change the retirement age back to 65. My grandparents came to this country as poor immigrants and have worked tirelessly to give their children a better life. My parents have busted their butts to make sure that I can go to school, that I can live a life relatively free of worry. Now they have to wait an extra two years to retire? How about no. Take some of that precious defence money that you hold so dear and give it back to the population, who deserve it.

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?

As a federal employee, I am embarrassed to say that I had to witness my boss take a job away from a fellow Canadian due to a lack of funding. There should be programs to promote MORE federal employees and to provide training initiatives for those members of our society who are most vulnerable.

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?

There should be federal assistance for people who enroll in medical programs of any kind (doctors, nurses, OT/PT, etc.) to help the elderly and there should be increased scholarship and bursary funding for skills.

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?

Initiatives for youths. Give kids a chance to hold jobs that don't necessarily require a bachelor's degree. My cousin had no formal training and he rose from a bottom of the line job to managing a company, because he worked hard and he had people to guide him.

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?

I think that young people are facing the greatest challenges. We have some of the worst federal aid programs in the world for our education and we need help. Just because Education is a provincially directed thing, it doesn't mean that the federal government can't allocate additional funds to promote increased student residences on campus, where living can be done for cheaper and students can have

the added bonus of living on campus.