

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?

More investment in environmental protection, mitigation, and alternative energy initiatives. New jobs with new technologies instead of old paradigm fossil jobs. Let's kick the habit and start being innovative and creative.

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?

Instead of purchasing manufactured goods from China or India, let's do more at home. The severe weather patterns we are experiencing are the results of old habits, fossil fuel reliance. Clean-up bills are not sustainable. Surely we can turn the corner and look to cleaner energy sources and manufacture them in Canada.

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?

Get people out of their vehicles (there's those fossil fuels again), and get them moving. Let's stop doing crisis health management and start being proActive. Let's try to keep people at home longer rather than institutionalizing people in facilities where it's faster to put someone in a wheelchair for mealtime, than it is to get them walking to the dining room. Let's put the care, back into health care.

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?

Let's keep our trained workers at home. The brain drain is diminishing our abilities to compete. So far, your nickel and dime cuts to Fisheries and Oceans and researchers is destroying our ability to respond to dramatic climactic occurrences with any measure of credibility. Why don't we stop spending money on G-8 and G-20 summits where billions of dollars are wasted for continuous non-productive results. That's where we can start to deal with productivity. Have a video-conference. That's more productive.

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?

Small businesses are facing challenges in terms of competing with corporations. Tax breaks to corporations, puts smaller businesses at a disadvantage. We are losing our identity. For the most part, you can drive into any city, and not know where you are because the chains and box stores are all the same. New energy technologies - made in Canada - are moving elsewhere, because our governments do not seem very welcoming. The barriers are too much to overcome in some instances. Let's change that.