

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?

Lowering taxes on middle and lower income family/individuals.

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?

Incentives to hire students, new graduates. Funds for offering courses to unemployed/underemployed for skills needed in the job market plus allowing these people to continue/initiate employment insurance so they can afford to leave work to take courses.

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?

Incentives for students (from high school to unemployed) to be trained/retrained in skills that are needed. For example, ability to draw EI at same time for older students if they have to leave a job to update skill sets or are already on EI. For aging population: use wards/floors being closed in hospitals as provincial run nursing homes for elderly that need medical care/constant monitoring. Everything is already built/set up. More in home care for those able to live in their own homes especially in rural areas where this is sorely lacking.

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?

The unemployment rate is high so the workforce is there; you just have to invest in it instead of investing in having foreign skilled workers come in to the country just to drive wages down. Put money into your own country and your own people and Canada will prosper.

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?

Rural areas are suffering. Jobs are scarce so young people leave to find a job. Since people leave services leave. Services leave hospitals, medical clinics and such leave.

