

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Ducks Unlimited Canada

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?

a. Federal investments in deteriorating infrastructure, recognizing natural infrastructure as an important component of Canada's overall infrastructure. b. Conservation programs (such as habitat securement, enhancement, restoration and conservation project management) provide important opportunities for economic stimulus in smaller centers and in rural communities through the creation of jobs, tax revenue to government, direct economic benefits to industry (agriculture, forestry, oil and gas). In addition, investments in conservation programs result in substantial revenues from tourism and recreational activities like hunting and fishing.

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?

a. Jobs are created through investments in conservation by way of direct employment benefits (working for conservation organization, restorations, management), tourism, service industries that support tourism and recreation, sustainable agriculture. b. Increase delivery of environmental and infrastructure programs through the private sector, including ENGOs such as Ducks Unlimited Canada. c. Recognition and support for the hunting and fishing sector – manufacturing, tourism, and cultural heritage. This sector is a very important job creator particularly in rural and northern 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?

a. Encourage funding and support for Fish and Wildlife programs to train the next generation of natural resource and environmental workers (many are being lost to retirement and we are not seeing new, quality people being trained). b. Encourage the education of new and recent Canadians on the environment and conservation.

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?

a. The development of a markets for EG&S to support sustainable industry in Canada (agriculture, Oil & Gas, and land development). b. Design and implement clear and unambiguous environmental regulations and processes across Canada to ensure fairness and competition for industry and for NGOs.

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?

a. Inconsistent regulatory environment across jurisdictions. b. Need for an investment in the development of Best Management Practices to support industry and local government compliance with environmental regulations and to ensure positive environmental outcomes. c. Institutionalizes the 'proponent pays' system for environmental harms and processes related to permitting so that these costs are not borne by civil society. Include provision allowing transfer of liability to a third party to support implementation of the mitigation policy (habitat banking, in-lieu fee approaches etc) d. all levels of governments must take steps to reduce the pressure on the Greenfield landscape. This can be done through a number of means through measures to encourage development in the urban cores such as by removing barriers to for brownfield redevelopment and supporting other urban renewal initiatives. e. Supporting and funding on-farm incentives for habitat conservation, i.e. through Growing Forward II.