

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Kate Dykman

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?

I think that infrastructure projects that support active transportation and public transit are essential investments at this time. These projects have multiple benefits - reducing traffic, air pollution, supporting healthy lifestyles and supporting those who can't afford private automobiles.

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?

We should reduce our reliance on resource revenues, slow tar sands development, and do everything we can to support the manufacturing base. We need to uphold strong environmental regulations that leave the next generation with a healthy ecosystem.

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?

Encourage people to plan for supported living situations. I'm one of the skilled workers waiting for them to retire - I'm looking forward to this problem actually occurring since it seems that these workers are staying in the job market longer than their predecessors.

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?

Fund training programs for Canadians to change careers, targeting those most in need.

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?

Aboriginal women in poverty are facing the greatest challenges in our society, especially when it has come to light that the police forces have been negligent in their duty to protect this vulnerable population. I would say clean out the RCMP, and fund programming that helps this group of people create real choices in their lives through training.