

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?

Lower credit card interest rates - many Canadians are having tough go of meeting their financial commitments because of the rise in cost of rents/mortgages. As a result, many are using their credit cards to cover the difference. It's well and good to make adjustments to mortgages but the government must take a look at the high interest rates charged by these companies. If Capital One can make money by offering 5.99% why do the others feel the need to charge 12%, 15% or 22%? Start investing in social or subsidized housing as we once used to.

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?

Stop with all of the trade agreements that weaken home-grown jobs for Canadians and by Canadians. Why should some foreign country have the right to bid on jobs in Canada and bring in their workers at lower rates of pay and then have the right to have a tribunal decide Canada's fate if that foreign country doesn't like it?. Support jobs for Canadians within Canada. Reduce the amount of \$ a person can spend when crossing the border into the US. It's ridiculous to be supporting the US economy in a time when the small and middle sized businesses along the border are having a rough time of it. It appears that these trade agreements and this increased US border spending have been made simply to weaken Canada, not strengthen it.

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?

Seniors want to be able to remain either in their own homes as long as possible or alternatively, to be able to live with a family member. Rather than using hospitals for housing some seniors or putting them in senior homes, there are two alternatives: a) start investing in more home support - of all types. The nurses that should be coming to check up on them, the meals on wheels type of programs, the Handy Dart type systems, someone to come in and clean their homes. It's less expensive than putting them in hospitals and homes. And b) start subsidizing the relative who could care for them by having the senior live at home with them rather than having to pay for hospitals, senior homes. It's darn hard to make ends meet if you have to support your parent yourself and get no help from the government in any way.

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?

If times are as tough as the government keeps suggesting, then let the market go after competitiveness and you the government work on sustainability of what we presently have. How about investing in infrastructure in our towns and cities, building the roads and such like we once used to.

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?

Taxes. Again and again, it comes down to taxes. Increase the taxes by a small percentage on those individuals who are large earners. Get rid of all of the subsidies to industries that can afford to pay CEOs such huge, gross bonuses and large dividends. Why are they being subsidized? They are obviously can manage without state welfare. Start investing in research and green technology instead of attacking and dismantling environmental controls in favour of industry that uses old, fossil fuel based technology. Start investing in research and development of the new technologies until they can be self-sustaining. Get out of the war business. Why do we need planes and tanks? Until now we haven't been an aggressor nation. Invest in education. Education today is far more expensive and out of reach for far too many. It's a matter of priorities. Health, education, infrastructure, protection of the environment, research and development....those are what build a strong, educated populace and a strong country where investment will be attracted. And start more real dialogue with Canadians.