

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?

Spending on infrastructure projects. Investments in green energy. Putting money back into environmental science. Eliminating all subsidies to all mature and successful industries such as big oil. Eliminating subsidies to old lines of work that are only viable if subsidised such as sealing. Improvements for self-employed Canadians in terms of growing RRSP room.

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?

Infrastructure spending should continue until things are growing again on their own. Stop downsizing the Public Sector. More unemployed people cannot possibly be a good thing for the economy.

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?

Policy changes promoting flexible work hours would help older Canadians continue to work longer without necessarily working a 40 hour week. Such flexibility would be good for anyone raising a family too. Improvements in the tax laws so that self-employed Canadians can grow RSP room and then grow an RSP to help with their golden years. Look at what can be done along the lines of enlisting people into the military and training them in the skills that are of value in the private sector.

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?

I personally have often wondered if these productivity numbers are even right. Perhaps it is a case of comparing apples and oranges. Everybody I know works very hard and is highly productive. I'm not just saying that. If they are true, then instead of treating the problem as something that affects Canadians in general, slice and dice the numbers to narrow down the industries or age groups or parts of the country or whatever and address the affected groups specifically.

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?

The poor, the unemployed, single parents, self-employed business or trades people, and older Canadians with few resources.