

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?

I strongly feel that we have to stop with the tax cuts to corporations. Big corporations need to be taxed much more heavily. They should also no longer be subsidised. Canadians should be taxed according to more tax brackets so that the very rich also get taxed more. This extra income should be spent on primordial social security, healthcare and education to become stronger, otherwise we are just creating problems for later. The government NEEDS to learn to think in the long-term. By cutting into these things now, you are only seeding the seeds to even more problems down the road.

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?

To promote job creation in Canada you need to ensure that there are good jobs to be had. That means ensuring that unions remain strong. That means ensuring that all sectors of the economy are protected (ie, research and development in all fields, not only technical fields, environmental sector jobs, and very importantly, scientists). The government needs to understand that a society is about ALL people. Not just the ones the government likes. Give scientists and environmentalists back their important positions. I do not fancy getting ruled by people who do not believe in science.

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?

If the government were to better understand the value that aging people have, the skills shortage would be a great deal less. So helping the elderly keep an active and rewarding life, where they could mentor younger people, for example, or keep working a day or two a week, would be helpful. Also, to counter skills shortage, broaden access to quality education. This would include reducing university costs. We need better educated people. Also, if you stopped cutting into the health system, our elderly wouldn't get to old age so sick. So invest into it now to save in the long run. Once again, that would mean having a more long-term approach. It would be nice if this government could show that it is capable of that.

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?

Productivity occurs in a climate where people feel good about their job. If they feel that they are being asked to be loyal to companies or organisations that show no loyalty to them, the productivity won't be great. So quit trying to bully unions into having less and less to give to their members, quit trying to

scare people into thinking that all companies will leave if they ask for better job conditions or higher wages. The federal government should also rearrange the financial sector so that banks can't charge as many fees as they do, lower the maximum percentage on credit card balances, which would reduce household debt and allow people to have more money to put back into real economy. Laws should be made so limit the salaries of CEOs and bonuses etc. And scientists should be allowed to work. Give them back the positions they held. And then broaden their scope and independence.

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?

Middle-income and the poor are the ones facing the most challenges. As well as scientists, thinking individuals, professors, unionists, and anybody the government does not agree with, such as anybody who likes to think. So the federal government needs to BACK OFF, realise we live in a democracy, not a dictatorship, stop treating parliament like it owns it, stop being so arrogant and dismissive about people's concerns. You need to undo most of the things you've tried to do in the international arena, you need to give scientists back their jobs, you need to inject more money into social programs and get companies to do their fair share by increasing their taxes and reducing their subsidies. And you need to keep religion OUT of the government.