

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Marie-Josée Forget

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?

Greater access to employment is essential, particularly in the community-based and cultural sectors. In the cultural sector, it is important to encourage small businesses as well as large, well-established businesses to ensure that the economy is diversified and well supported.

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?

I am not an employment expert, but I know that increasing the capacity of our SMBs would be well received. Major companies, particularly foreign ones, should receive less support and financial assistance. They should share the tax burden and shoulder responsibility for the environment. Industries that create jobs like culture, organic farming and textiles should be supported.

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?

Make public health care more effective and prevent social inequities by stopping the spread of private clinics. Require medium-sized and large businesses to provide their employees with training and to establish a mentoring system. Support pharmaceutical drugs produced in Quebec and develop a national drug plan. We pay too much for drugs.

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?

Canada has significant labour resources in the fields of culture, technology, communications and transport. It is important not to sign an agreement that requires us to accept the lowest bidder. As we avoid foreign development, we could also support our own people by giving them the opportunity to play an important role in our own economy.

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 peoples. Performers and artists. Cultural businesses. Give Aboriginal peoples greater autonomy. Make culture a national treasure. Encourage diversity and expression at home and abroad.

