

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Peter Fortna

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?

The major role for the government will be to continue to manage and monitor the environment. I am extremely concerned that recent cuts found in Bill 38 will reduce their ability to do so. Furthermore, my cutting funding to CEAA and other like organizations I worry that the GoC is setting themselves up for a constitutional challenge with Aboriginal groups that will ultimately slow projects even further. In addition to the above concerns I worry that cuts to Archives Canada, Parks Canada, and other similar organizations put the history of our country at risk. These organizations, particularly Parks Canada, play a huge role in rural communities and cuts will cause huge negative impacts to those places. Additionally, such cuts put our history at risk of being lost forever.

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?

Again, the first action the GoC should take should be to reinstate environmental regulations to ensure a reputable program exists. By doing away with such a program you increase the risk of constitutional challenges that will hold up major projects for years. The GoC should also invest heavily in programs such as Parks Canada and Archives Canada which produce knowledge and protect jobs in rural communities.

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?

Invest heavily in Universities to ensure the next generations of Canadians have the skills necessary to take advantage of the globalizing economy. Tuitions should be free and scholarship should be encouraged with major funding increases to SSHRC and NSRC

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?

Improved access to education. Cheaper if not free tuition and more funding to research agencies like SSHRC and NSERC

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?

Canada's Aboriginal groups are currently facing some of the most changes in the country. The Kelowna Accord should be adopted and implemented by the GoC.