

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 believe we need to focus on investing money in clean technologies so that we can take advantage of what is the way of the future. We should be shifting our focus from resource extraction to manufacturing clean technologies that are better for the environment and are more socially responsible. We should be incenting companies with good ideas to stay in Canada. Our policies need to change to allow this.

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?

- Incent companies to come here / stay here that focus on green/clean technologies - Change policy and encourage provinces to change policy to allow this to happen quickly. Companies often leave because it takes too long here. - Incent young people / students to take science and technology in school. - Do not lay off federal workers. - Learn from countries with strong, clean economies and bring their experts here to teach others.

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?

- Speed up immigration processes and make it easier for skilled workers to begin working in their field right away. - Promote Canada to people in other countries and try to attract them. Especially English speaking countries. - Focus on prevention for health care, not reaction to problems. Need more incentives and education around healthy lifestyles, especially for seniors. Fund non-profits to do this. - Force insurance companies to allow gym memberships and purchasing gym equipment as part of health spending accounts and such. These are more useful than massages and other professional visits for most people.

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?

- Increase funding to non-profits that provide training for youth, Aboriginals, immigrants, etc. or help people find work, write resumes, etc. - With the provinces, enhance the education system to provide more real life preparation and experience. Perhaps internships, career preparation, home ec, etc. should come back / be encouraged more for high school kids.

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?

- Those with no money to pay all their expenses are facing the most challenges. Addiction, no skills, disease, etc. can all be reasons why. - Fund non-profits that work with these people. - Ensure disability payments / welfare are going to those that truly deserve it and need it.