

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?

We need to create jobs where we live. That is, building new roads, bridges and overpasses to replace existing ones, some of which are more than 50 years old. We should also consider a high-speed magnetic levitation train. If we want to reduce the number of new roads we build, we need to consider more effective ways of transporting goods: combining our national railway with centralized service and local delivery would eliminate some of the need for long-haul trucking, which infringes on and pollutes our environment.

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?

Industries of the future should be targeted for job creation, e.g., environment, agriculture, forestry (biomass production).

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?

Homeowners aged 65 and over who are still working should have reduced property and education taxes. Or receive tax relief. To address the labour shortage, we should review our welfare program to encourage a return to work.

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?

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?

We need to eliminate the barriers that exist between provinces to facilitate the flow of goods and services: workforce, agricultural products, etc.

