

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 think that youth unemployment is a problem that is getting worse, and the young people currently without jobs may be left behind. Small and medium sized businesses are struggling to meet payrolls for the staff they have. They could employ more people and expand with help and guidance from government.

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?

The Jobs Canada website is not sufficient to guide job seekers to opportunities. People without experience in finding jobs need counsellors to point out where their talents are most needed, what training is available to them, and fit workers to jobs. Where there are unfilled jobs for a long time, more effort must be made to train people for them.

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?

We expect the federal government to take action to protect the health of the population in the areas of the environment, infrastructure and health promotion, as well as oversee medical services. Health is a matter of individual responsibility, which must be supported by social regulations. People need safe and effective medicines, including natural and dietary remedies, made readily available and not for profit. Health Canada could do more to promote self care and healthy choices which would preserve health and enable people not only to use fewer medical services, but also to live and work longer.

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?

The Canadian workforce should use brains in the the world market, not hands. Basic scientific research opens new avenues for innovation, engineering and manufacturing, things which we don't yet know can exist. It is a grave mistake to cut the programs which can give us such knowledge.

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?

I believe that families with children are being pushed from all sides. The cost of housing, food, clothing, transportation, and education keep rising and wages are not keeping up. Many people who can manage now are worried about how they can save for emergencies or retirement. The government should concentrate on supporting a flourishing economy and a healthy population. Government spending inside Canada, by direct employment and by purchasing, will benefit the country in the long term.