

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?

Recovery and growth should come via investing in education, environmental solutions, and alternative energy. We could become a world leader in new technologies, and sustainable practices. Federal measures should also include impeding outsourcing jobs to other countries, as well as encouraging small business growth. Foreign takeovers of Canadian businesses can cost jobs, and big chain retailers can put many Canadian entrepreneurs and family run stores out of business. Regulation is important, not only for the safety of Canadians and our ecosystems, but safe money in the long-run due to greater health of Canadians and 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?

We need to be sustainable and not reliant on the US or Europe. Healthy sectors of agriculture, Canadian manufacturing, textiles, technology development, customer service, alternative energy, need to be encouraged. Less monopolizing, greater trade between provinces should also be encouraged. Local food production, community resources could also increase internal jobs.

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?

Education is the obvious response to this. Developing skills within Canada to fulfill gaps, and as well to look after the elderly would be very beneficial. We do not need more people in Canada. Growth is not sustainable, and is in fact part of the problem in creating the economic crisis. Sustainability is the best way to a healthy future. Recognizing the problems caused by the age gap is also recognizing that we need to be sustainable in all factors that contribute to our economy. Long term planning is important.

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?

Innovation comes from less monopolization. Sharing of ideas, technology, gov't help to modernize, and facilitate the education of business owners. Technological advancements are crucial. Also incentives for workers are important to productivity - worker loyalty, pay, benefits, and feelings of ownership and contribution greatly help with productivity.

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?

Canadian businesses and workers are having trouble competing due to large multinationals, monopolization, outsourcing, and old ways of economic thinking that haven't benefitted small businesses, communities, our environment and families. Sustainability must be our focus, and a healthy economy will consistently thrive as a result.