

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?

For a sustained economy there is a need to diversify and plan for the future rather than an intense focus on the present. Higher taxation of large corporations and the extremely wealthy, as well as forcing corporations to pay for infrastructure they need in order to extract Canadian resources. This will allow Canada's natural wealth to be distributed to Canada's people. Energy companies operating in the oil sands should be made to pay funds into Canadian renewable energy research and infrastructure in order to have a plan for a post oil sands energy economy. Considering the rates at which we trade power with the United States and our supplies of natural gas, forms of clean energy storage such as power to gas should be implemented immediately to store this energy wealth more efficiently. Currently Canada is under fire from the world in terms of our energy usage and we should be considering that in our future plans, as well as the future costs of over expansion in the oil sands as well as any other industry. Taxation of the wealthy should also be used to help rebuild Canada's tech and manufacturing sectors. Due to our immense size it is both critical and logical that Canada be a world leader in the communications and transportation industry, two sectors in need of help in Canada. I am certain the sale of key strategic industries, steel, potash, lumber, and mining to name a few will not help Canada build a sustained economy since now the profit margins of those industries will not be staying within Canada. Also maybe those F35s should not be purchased for a few more years with the current need for fiscal restraint.

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 prices at which Canada's natural resources sold should be increased for foreign nations, especially those which compete for market share, and decreased at home. This would allow for Canadian manufacturing to compete with cheaper foreign markets. Do not raise the retirement age. This one seems obvious, but if people are retiring later it will take longer to open new jobs. If taxes need to be raised to make this happen so be it specifically a 2% GST increase would probably cover it. Stop firing people, again pretty obvious, but when you fire 80 000 people the job market is suddenly more saturated, and there are less jobs. I realize these people need to be paid and that means cutting money somewhere else in the budget so you can make an easy \$29 000 000 000.00 by not buying the F35s, maybe buy 30 rather than 65.

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?

The retirement age should not be increased. Younger workers should be allowed to enter the production work force while older workers move into supervisory rolls and train them. Allow youthful energy and the experience of age work together to make Canada strong.

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 retirement age should not be increased. Younger workers should be allowed to enter the production work force while older workers move into supervisory rolls and train them. Allow youthful energy and the experience of age work together to make Canada strong. Shorten the individuals work days and increase the size of the work force. As automation increases in industry the need for people is smaller and conventional thinking has no solution for this problem. By raising wages and shortening an individuals work days more jobs will be created and production will go up. This will cut into corporate profit margins but raise Canada's profit margins. Encourage smaller companies that are beginning to grow in future industries like electronics, electronic materials, communications, and aerospace. Smaller companies with a desire to grow will need to produce better products faster in order to compete, but will also require federal assistance.

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?

The manufacturing and tech sectors in Ontario face the largest challenges at the current time. High unemployment rates and the continuing cuts in jobs are hurting people in Ontario. Western Canada has largely been able to fall back on its natural resources while more and more tech companies are appearing on the coast. The federal government needs to support the manufacturing and tech sectors in Ontario and eastern Canada to try and reverse the damage that has been done. The good news is with the high unemployment rate there are a lot of skilled workers who are no longer employed. If the government provides them with resources teams of skilled workers will start many small companies. Many of these companies will fail, but some will not.