

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

D Hurstfield

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 the government should look at supporting green industries which will help transition our economy from an overdependence on resource extraction industries. Wind power, solar power manufacturing, installation and production would be a start.

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?

See my response to question 1. In addition the support of small farmers who market locally to encourage greater food security within Canada, in the event of that the impact of the economic problems of other regions of the world are greater than anticipated. It takes time to build up the skill capacity required for seed production, farming and local food productions (preserving, canning, butchering, etc).

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?

Mentoring programs come to mind, along with support of apprenticeship programs. Encourage more people to go into medical programs by supporting loan forgiveness programs for those who stay with communities with identified shortages (northern, rural areas, etc.).

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?

No comment at this time.

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 greatest challenge is our connectedness to other Canadians. CBC does an excellent job of both capturing Canadian issues and identity, to share with other Canadians and the world in general. They have done an excellent job of making it the people's radio, despite ever reducing budgets. CBC aids in promoting democracy and making our country a better place. I would like to see the Federal reinstate

full funding to the CBC - many problems can be solved by people working together and sharing ideas, in our country CBC fulfills this role for many. Engage the people of this country - it is something the government has failed to do.