

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Susan Jardine

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?

There is no need for fiscal restraint. Sustained recovery and growth can only happen if we launch massive government spending on infrastructure, trades education, social programs such as national day care, arts programs, public transport programs. Restraints on government spending and austerity programs have never helped economic recovery and job creation. We need to stop supporting banks and the wealthy with lowered taxes. We need to stop eliminating well paid government jobs and slashing social programs. This type of economic approach has never worked. We need to begin modeling our society on those of the northern European countries, such as Iceland, Finland and Brazil. All are doing very well. Better than the US. .

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?

Stop eliminating government jobs. Stop preaching austerity and fears of economic collapse and begin spending money on creating well educating forward thinking workforce. Free education for all across the board. Stop relying on the largesse of the wealthy corporations. It has not happened using that model and never will.

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?

Skills shortage can be addressed by providing free education across the board and opening our doors to immigration not closing them as is the current climate under the current government.

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?

Productivity is measured how? Perhaps by supporting families with a national day care system, increasing workers vacations, and lowering the retirement age to 60 to make way for younger workers would increase productivity. I believe the larger problem is not low productivity but no jobs and skills sets in many of our young people. We need free trades education. We need higher minimum wages, we need better working conditions. A happy worker who can afford to eat and maintain a healthy life style is a more productive worker. Slashing jobs and having people living in fear of economic destitution is not the route to higher productivity it is the route to higher illness rates, lower productivity and higher

health costs for the state.

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?

A challenge to any member of our society is a challenge to all of us. I feel that many challenge are fabricated challenges based on fabricated fears of economic loss. There is lots of money. Rather than spending on military build up, prisons, and police forces, we need to spend money on more and better, and universal social programs. . All of us grow old, some of us get ill, all of us will die. Poverty in Canada is the largest challenge with the easist fix. Free trades education, a national day care program, a national pharmacare program, higher minimum wages, good government jobs, government cash infusions to rebuild our infrastuctures. , research and development of alternate energy sources all would help resolve the basic challenge s of all of us.