

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?

Value added industry and trade protection will assist Canada in a recovery. Sending all of our raw resources out of the country for processing (lumber, agriculture, minerals, fossil fuels), has left us in a boom and bust economy. Our high skill jobs are drying up as we do more and more simple production without any secondary or tertiary processing.

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?

Support alternative energy manufacture, production and installation. It is by far more productive in long-term sustainable jobs than fossil fuel extraction. Support small local rural communities in supplying their bigger centres (instead of importing exactly the same products that are produced here). Trade protection is a good thing. We need to ensure that our manufacturing sector is protected. We should not be allowing all these processing jobs to go offshore to third world countries where their citizens are treated abysmally.

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?

Adequately fund medicare: do not allow Big Pharma to dictate how provinces and hospitals purchase their medications. Do not protect Big Pharma in their gouging of customers. Do block bulk purchasing agreements for common medications so that Canadians are insulated from price gouging. Support aging in place. Support public health and do not allow private clinics to have any public funding. For profit health care is much more expensive. If those providers choose to run such a facility, let them pay, let those who are wealthy pay for their private care, if they so choose. Immigration of skilled workers needs to be streamlined. Doctors, engineers and other professionals should have a much easier access to jobs than our current 18 month waiting time.

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 funding of post-secondary institutions to give access to education on an equal basis to all Canadian youth would solve our labour market challenges. Being saddled with a huge debt and then having no

guarantee of a job when youth come out of university is not encouraging at all for young people to go into post-secondary studies. Assistance at High School levels to know which job sectors are needing skilled workers would be helpful. Katimavik and other youth engagement programs gives our Canadian youth a chance to see a vast number of different types of jobs. These kinds of programs need to open up opportunities for our youth.

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?

Part-time work is currently not adequately valued, it doesn't often have good benefits, and it doesn't often promise job security. However, part-time work is a way to employ more people, and also to give mothers a better chance to be mothers and yet keep their job skills up. There are many thousands of Canadians who are marginal workers, who may be struggling with mental, medical or physical handicaps. If these people received adequate support to work, if they received appropriate medication or mental help, they would be enabled to participate in the working world, and not be a burden on their communities. Small farms are a way to allow more people to live a rural lifestyle, and would reengage our youth in a meaningful and sustainable occupation. Small (and especially organic) farms should be supported by the Federal gov't. The Federal gov't should stop subsidizing large corporate farms and use those subsidies for small farm operations.