

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?

Stop funding the big oil companies' operations in Canada. Fund research on climate change.

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?

Respect the negotiations between workers' unions and employers at Canadian companies such as Air Canada. The government should not use the globalization of trade to push Canadian wages down to the lowest common denominator. Instead, poor and developing countries should increase their workers' wages to make up the difference.

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?

Respect the negotiations between workers' unions and employers at Canadian companies such as Air Canada. The government should not use the globalization of trade to push Canadian wages down to the lowest common denominator. Instead, poor and developing countries should increase their workers' wages to make up the difference.

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?

We must support entrepreneurship, particularly in the arts and culture sector, which contributes several million, if not billion, dollars to the Canadian economy. Increase the corporate tax rate to fund daycare and scientific research programs that will give Canada the scientific foundation to develop innovations in the resource extraction, climate, high-tech and telecommunications fields. Support for scientific advancements and research programs would help create new jobs resulting from this research and provide for advanced research positions in our universities.

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?

Most Aboriginal people live in notoriously unsanitary conditions, to Canada's great shame. Rather than waste taxpayers' money on campaigns to glorify obscure wars from our past, lick the boots of our monarchs, which only sets Canada back 100 years to its status as a British colony, and waste even more money on relabeling our armed forces "Royal," the Conservative government should spend this money on supporting First Nations' economic development. It could also help artists who work extremely hard and play a critical role in knitting together the Canadian identity. Accordingly, this government should do less for big business, multinational corporations and the most well-off Canadians.