

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

David Lewis

Responses
1. Economic Recovery and Growth
<i>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>
More focus, preparations and spending on adapting to ever increasing effects of climate change. More focus on addressing the core conditions that lead to criminal activity, NOT incarcerating more Canadians. Less military spending and more spending on domestic infrastructure.
2. Job Creation
<i>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?</i>
Encourage development of a home grown green economy that moves us away from dependance on fossil fuels and their associated damaging effects on our planet. Remove oil industry subsidies. Move the country toward a sustainable economy, not continued unsustainable growth.
3. Demographic Change
<i>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?</i>
Promote and foster increased R & D in health related areas. Increase funding for health care infrastructure improvements. Support the Provinces with improvements in their education systems to keep more kids in school and make health care professions more attractive to graduates.
4. Productivity
<i>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?</i>
More funding for R & D. Develop a national strategy on productivity in consultation with the Provinces. Help Canadians understand the importance of being productive and what that means.
5. Other Challenges
<i>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?</i>
Listen to the repected scientists of the world! Severe weather due to climate change is increasing and will get worse as we move forward. Since our current government has decided to give up on mitigating climate change, we now need to prepare for the consequences of more severe weather, rising water levels, heat waves, etc. that we are now experiencing and will continue to get worse. People least able to afford protection from these effects will need the most help. Better to be proactive than reactive. We will need more emergency services and infrastructure to deal with these calamities that will become

more frequent and widespread. Preparing for this will also help with the issues raised in the other questions.