

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Brona Little

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?

The elimination of all fossil fuel subsidies and the investment of that money into new, sustainable technologies.

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?

Investing in sustainable job creation, e.g. research, innovation and manufacturing related to green energy generation. Building green energy infrastructure. Investing in sustainable, organic, non-GMO, non-pesticide dependent food production. Eco-tourism, especially promoting Canada's ecosystems like the Great Bear Rainforest, the boreal forest, the arctic. Sustainable fishing industries, aquaculture, and marine tourism. 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?

Inviting skilled immigrants and actually allowing/encouraging them to use those skills. Encouraging investment in re-training and sustainable job-creation.

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?

Less focus on resource extraction and 19th century technologies, investment in high-tech research and development, wind energy, tidal energy, solar energy, biomass, etc. Renewed investment in sustainable manufacturing. Tax incentives for energy conservation and sustainable generation.

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?

In my view, the federal government has tunnel vision focused exclusively on resource extraction, especially the tar sands. Virtually everyone else is facing challenges, particularly those in manufacturing or fishing. Rather than short-term band-aids, these areas need long-term planning, and long-term investments to establish sustainable industries and broaden Canada's economic strength.

