

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?

In order to continue to reap the benefits of a civilized society, we need education, art, and clean energy. Investment in education is one of the fastest ways to stabilize and improve an economy. Discontinuing oil subsidies and ensuring that the government is somewhat responsible for renewable energy solutions is another measure that could greatly benefit our economy. In this way the oil industry would not be able to buy out all of their renewable competition. Canadian consumers are incredibly interested in seeing healthy energy solutions. Make these available, and they will be an incredible investment. Many Canadians want to see a separation of oil and state. Levels of crime, suicide and homicide drop significantly when art and other after-school programs are implemented through the education system. This provides an outlet and prevents drug use. There are many proven studies of these methods working. So, why aren't we doing enough about these social epidemics?

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?

The green economy is the most obvious answer to this question. Transitioning to sustainable measures not only appeases the environmental advocates, but creates jobs. This is a largely untapped source of the economy because of oil industry buying out renewable start-ups and then sitting on the technology. Simply ask BP or Shell what they're doing with their sustainable development team; the answer will be very close to nothing. This is a simple suggestion that means keeping up with economies around the world. Promotion of jobs within the eco-tourism sector is hugely important. And how about just discontinuing the outsourcing of jobs? Because really, it's socially wrong. Especially in subsidized industries. In Vancouver our most recent skytrain line wasn't even built by Canadians. So either stop complaining about the difficulty of creating jobs, or actually keep your own construction labour for the Canadian people.

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?

Understand that higher taxation is likely in order to deal with this. Most educated individuals understand the necessity of taxation for the good of our people. Make it clear that our taxes should be going to our people, and not to pedestrian overpasses in unnecessary places, and other frivolous spending.

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?

Education and incentive for trade-skills.

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?

First Nations people have been largely affected by cancer rates rising near unlined tailings ponds. The discrepancy between classes and the acute racism towards Natives is despicable. And embarrassing. Make this a country we are proud to be from, and publicize the socio-economic changes we are making, and tourism will boom. First nations peoples are suffering from suicide rates through the roof, as well as higher rates of drug and alcohol addiction. Immigrants are afraid to seek health care. Your people are angry, and are working to express their demands. Do not shun the Casseroles movement, or quiet any of the other social activism movements, instead bring your people to the table. They have solutions for you. Bring their minds together for a country all of us are proud of. With this budget bill, please understand how much this country needs a renewed pride in its choices. It costs very little to send individuals through trade schooling//most post secondary institutions. Start with that.