

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Lutherans for Life - Canada

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?

Tax payers monies that are given to certain political/activist groups need to be curtailed as this is not a level playing field with only certain groups receiving funding to support their causes. Canadians need to be treated fairly with support for everyone on no one. Radical left-wing groups are not entitled to special privileges while other family orientated groups receive no funding. The playing field needs to be leveled.

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?

Canadian industry and small businesses need support to be sustainable and thus create more local jobs. More effort should be made to insure Canadians spend more on local manufactured goods.

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?

As the Government has somewhat addressed the situation by increasing the retirement age and contributions made past the age of 65. Seniors can and will still contribute to the betterment of Canadian society by the many hours of volunteer work they do. Volunteer organizations need federal support as well. Seniors have much too contribute to society and should not be ignored, but encouraged to contribute.

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?

Seniors can still contribute in work sense by doing part time work, which should be encouraged. They may only wish to work/volunteer on a part-time basis and allowances should be made for this. For the younger generation, training and skills enhancement needs to be promoted. They need to be encouraged and subsidized to continue their education and training.

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?

Small Rural communities face a tremendous challenge in sustaining viability. Small businesses need boosting if they are to achieve higher productivity. Federal actions needed. Money and subsidy seem to be the way to encourage success, but that no longer applies in our complicated society. The mind-set of Canadians need to be adjusted to support and encourage productivity and local pride.