

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Jackie MacDonald

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 only growth I would like to see is in renewable energy and local food resilience. Climate change and ocean acidification will reduce our easy and cheap access to food more and more over the years and we need to prepare for that. The price of oil will be higher than most people can afford and we need to prepare for that too. There is scientific evidence for both of these scenarios and you are either ignoring it or are ignorant. Start being leaders and innovators rather than stuck in the old paradigm. That is what we need!

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 jobs we need are in renewable energy and local food resilience. These jobs will help us cope with economic uncertainty. Climate change and ocean acidification will reduce our easy and cheap access to food more and more over the years and we need to prepare for that. The price of oil will be higher than most people can afford and we need to prepare for that too. We need education, training, apprenticeships and internships in these areas. International competition and trade will not be high on our agenda when oil prices rise as no one will be able to afford it.

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?

The world is going to be changing at a faster and faster pace over the next decades and climate change and high oil prices start to take hold. Rather than continuing to use old paradigm thinking start to focus on local resilience.

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?

A focus on productivity is old paradigm thinking. It is because of our focus on productivity that we have global problems that are leading to our extinction. If you had focused on sustainability we might not be in this situation. Wake up!!

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 farmers, small business, senior single women, people with disabilities, First Nations and other low income people are marginalized. Government and Corporations are not interested in their problems. Why should I list their challenges and how you can address them when myself and others have done so ad nauseum and we have been ignored. If you are serious, ask local Community Social Planning Councils and local Agricultural Societies what needs to be done and prove you are sincere by implementing the agreement made between First Nations and government just before the Conservative Party came to power.