

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?

Stop pandering to one resource base. You work for Canadians! Not oil and gas companies. There are many industries (including new technology and green industries) that would benefit from some attention. So what if oil and gas has to spend their own money to transport their product to China? Your job is to make it diplomatically possible for them to do so, not to worry about their bottom line. We don't want this dirty pipeline mucking up our waterways in BC. Also, stop forcing our province to pay for your childish and uneducated version of mandatory minimum sentences.

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 first thing we need to do is stop wagging our finger at Europe. It's embarrassing. We happened to be better managed than many countries BEFORE the banking crisis. Your government is not better than those "nanny states." Just keep interest rates and small business taxes low. Take all the money your spending on promoting companies that aren't going anywhere regardless (like enbridge) and cut fewer government employees.

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?

High unemployment and skills shortages? Wouldn't subsidizing education of Canadians in the skills most valued by top employers benefit those companies AND young people. Clearly immigration of skilled workers also helps.

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?

See previous response.

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?

Isolated aboriginal children need the most help. Living conditions, health care and educational standards are dismal. If these kids want to find work elsewhere they are totally unprepared for off reserve life. We must create more structure for them with quality schooling, health care and housing. The number of aboriginal suicides as well as the number of incarcerated aboriginals is shameful. Environmental issues are equally in need. Don't let industry wreck our land!