

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?

We need a specific and effective plan to combat climate change and promote a greener economy. End all fossil fuel subsidies, and add some stimulus to alternative power sources. Bail-out student debt, not big banks or corporations, so Canadian citizens can actually afford to live and buy the things they 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?

Promote public dialogue. Open up communication channels so the public voice can be heard. Have the environment minister, or anyone in government, not be a spokesperson for the fossil fuel industry. Of all people the environment minister should have a background in environmental issues and at the very least an interest in preserving the environment. End fossil fuel subsidies and promote a green economy.

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?

Forgive student debt and mandate a living wage across the country. The aging population has enjoyed the 'free' ride that apparently young people are complaining about not getting. If young people have to help support the aging population, then they should not have to worry about mortgage sized debt loads for their education, all the while trying to find meaningful, local work that doesn't involve fossil fuels, which won't even pay enough for them to live on.

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?

Separate and remove extreme Christian ideologies regarding the divinity of the free market from the government mandate. Mandate at least four weeks of paid vacation for every working person in Canada. Let us enjoy life a little, to revitalize our personal lives, and retain an interest in our professional lives. Productivity will increase. Tax incentives should be put in place to encourage businesses, municipalities, etc., to allow their employees to work from home and reduce their carbon footprint.

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 who don't have access to clean drinking water, and are being taken advantage of by the federal government and mining industries for access to their lands and titles. The government should negotiate fairly openly and honestly with first nations, and be open and transparent about their intentions regarding first nations people with the Canadian public. Anyone who doesn't earn a living wage; i.e. under \$18 to \$20 an hour. A guaranteed living wage should become part of the Canadian constitution for at least anyone who works full time or seasonal. Students facing crushing debt loads; forgive student debt and reduce tuition costs. Assist in the costs of living for students attending post secondary institutions, who are trying to help the Canadian economy grow. Forgive student debt for students who volunteer in their communities.