

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

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Responses
1. Economic Recovery and Growth
<i>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?</i>
Develop a National Energy Strategy withdraw subsidies to extractive industries and invest in alternative energy technology. Develop and then invest in Food Security plan for Canada more investment in smaller-scale/family organic and humane agriculture increase funding to all levels of education invest in national day care program increase investment in First Nations communities - governance, health & education
2. Job Creation
<i>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?</i>
Develop industries: manufacturing, agriculture, alternative energy, sustainable resource extraction with value-added component to serve Canadian markets and needs. There is no need to ship all of our resources away in their raw forms. There always has been and will be international trade, however if we focus on serving our national needs and markets first, and investing in environmental clean up and sustainability, more well-paying jobs will be created, more local businesses will benefit and more tax revenues for social and other programs. These kinds of initiatives will lessen the income gap, bring more people out of poverty and result in a healthier and better educated population.
3. Demographic Change
<i>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?</i>
invest in education and training for all ages - increase immigration and support for new Canadians
4. Productivity
<i>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?</i>
invest in measures to decrease income gap invest more in preventative health including, worker & workplace safety, environmental health, mental health

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?

Smaller centres including rural communities - particularly those that have historically been dependent on a single resource - are most at risk to simply disappear. The Federal government must look at transferring resources and decision making to municipal and regional levels to match the downloading of responsibilities that has taken place over the last 20 years. This will allow communities to diversify the economic bases more readily and make investments based on the local needs in a more timely manner than is now possible