

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?

Improve/restore our social network systems. Restore Employment Insurance benefits - workers paid into this. Current policies are creating poverty, not reducing it. Bring back the long form census so that we can be sure that data gathered is accurate, relevant.

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?

Ensure that money loaned/granted/handed out to companies is tied to proven full-time sustainable jobs creation and should be tied to an appropriate length of time. Tie Corporate tax cuts to proven full-time sustained job creation.

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?

Cancelling the Fair Wage Act is not serving Canadians fairly

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?

First of all, as I wrote earlier, tie all corporate taxes to proven/sustainable full time jobs. Then let the companies themselves find ways to increase productivity. I don't believe government's job is to find ways for companies to become more productive. At the same time, government should be looking inward to cut waste and I don't mean cutting programs that serve the public. DON'T cut social services - the public is already delivering much of our social services through volunteering - they're stressed, overworked, aging, and need help/support.

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?

The worker is facing the biggest challenge. Union-busting by government has seen the upper rungs of the ladder removed - there is no room for upward movement for the worker. Government is gutting the heart out of Canadians. If we don't look after our workers, we ensure a growing gap between the haves

and have not. Denmark or Sweden, or both, have a good economy, with a great social system - they pay higher taxes but workers have more cash in their pockets.