

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?

Sustaining the economy is a great goal following three to five years of Baby Boomer pre-retirement fiscal safety consciousness. Investing in space technology is a must for Canada's role in the Commonwealth. Investing in encouraging Canadian French in global discourse is a good action within the Francophonie. Investing in regionalism doctrine is a good practice for Canada's role in the United Nations. Growing partnerships in southern India and western China should continue to be goals for the venture capital industry of Atlantic Canada.

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 Katimavik by financing Canadian identity education in global markets using the Katimavik brand history within the scope of operations of Export Development Canada.

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?

Build opportunities for Canadian young people as well as young people studying in Canada in 2+2 college/university programs to gain experience with overseas-active Canadian companies through working with the youth-driven organization AIESEC and its Canadian post-secondary partners. Set up a federal division of the Millenium Foundation to work with retiring Baby Boomers to discover strategic funding opportunities for people to get trained to fill upcoming retirement gaps in the labour and workforce.

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?

Promote the Canadian identity in countries with active pools of would-be immigrants. Help their young family members integrate into society across multiple regions of the country through initiating Katimavik's funding by Citizenship and Immigration Canada instead of Canadian Heritage - and rebuild to match changes since Katimavik's founding 35 years ago to meet current national needs in line with the Harper government.

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?

Young people are facing significant challenges as a result of conflicting demands on their availability to work and be put to work. Young people want to fill roles made available by retiring Canadians but those roles require work and skill experience beyond the reach of their means. This is in part due to people who are retired wanting to stay active through volunteerism and working medium skill jobs, but as a result foreign workers get hired for Canadian based roles, because those workers were able to acquire skills and work experience in home countries without senior citizen populations. The solution to this problem is very difficult, but would be a lasting appreciation of a generation of voters.