

The Nature Conservancy of Canada

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?

Canada has led the world in its recovery from the global economic recession. We can be proud of our economic accomplishments but we must remain vigilant if we are to achieve a full recovery and enhanced economic growth. At the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), we believe it is possible to realize the goal of sustained economic recovery and enhanced economic growth while conserving our natural heritage and our working landscapes. In fact, we believe that the two are inextricably linked. In real economic terms nature provides valuable goods and services such as cleaning our air and water, flood control, and carbon storage. Conserving these services is essential for thriving communities, robust employment and enhanced economic growth. Canada's natural heritage is one of our competitive advantages. It is an important part of the Canadian brand. The accessibility of our natural areas to major Canadian centres contributes to our high quality of life and is one reason that people choose to live and work in our great country. At the Nature Conservancy of Canada we have always looked for new ways to bring partners together to achieve lasting conservation results. Currently celebrating our 50th year, we are proud of our history of leveraging private sector investment to protect Canada's natural spaces and promote conservation. The Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP) is one of the most recent successes NCC has been proud to lead. Launched in 2007 by the Government of Canada with an initial investment of \$225 million, the NACP is the largest commitment by any Canadian government to the conservation of natural spaces through the protection of private lands. This unique public-private partnership invests in direct, on-the-ground action. The results speak for themselves: 809,906 acres already conserved; natural habitat protected for more than 126 species at risk; and the program is delivering almost \$3 of conservation for every \$1 of federal funding. The NACP is an innovative approach with tangible results. At NCC, we believe that Canada can "lead the way" economically but also in terms of land conservation. We urge the Government to renew the Natural Areas Conservation Program in Budget 2013.

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?

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?

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?

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?