

NextgenID Canada Inc.

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?

In a post 9-11 world, it is now understood that targeted security measures are an essential component of economic growth and prosperity. This concept is a core part of the recent Canada-US Beyond the Border Agreement and it extends to international trade and domestic protection of the critical infrastructure which support the Canadian economy. Knowing who is seeking entry to our country or access to our critical infrastructure is, therefore, essential. Biometric identification technologies provide both a one on one match capacity to confirm a known and voluntarily enrolled identity such as in low risk programs like FAST or NEXUS as well as a one on many match to check an individual against a known 'bad guy' database. Biometric screening is also an essential part of any low risk program to ensure that the person seeking enrolment is not someone on the already known bad guy database. NextgenID is a leading developer and supplier of biometric security technologies active internationally with offices Canada and the United States. NextgenID offers a full range of ready to deploy (and in fact already deployed) biometric technologies including all of face, fingerscan and iris recognition. The Beyond the Border Agreement clearly contemplates modernizing and harmonizing effective border security measures while concurrently expediting legitimate trade and travel. There is likely no single way of more effectively simultaneously achieving these goals than through the deployment of a biometric lookout system and by adding a like biometric component to the low risk programs already in place. Ensuring appropriate funding to achieve these goals is thus an important part of supporting economic growth in Canada which hopefully will be expressly reflected in Budget 2013. As noted in the response to Q4, the application of biometric identity detection and verification technologies has many end users but rather than allowing that to hinder implementation of this economic support, the Government should use the existing multiple funding sources rather than seek an entirely new allocation. Budgetary efficiency also supports economic growth.

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?

Achieving the necessary identification of persons involved in international and cross border trade and travel is a cornerstone to ensuring the economic prosperity that comes with it. Similarly, securing critical infrastructure facilities by ensuring access is restricted to persons that are properly vetted and approved supports the continuing operation of Canadian economy free from disruption. Deployment of biometric detection and identification technologies clearly support these important goals and what is now required is the financial allocation in Budget 2013 to make that policy imperative an accomplished goal. By coordinating efforts in this area, including through specific Budgetary allocation, the 'bad guy' lookout and verified low risk biometric databases can be used in different operational applications thus increasing productivity. Doing this would achieve a number of clearly stated government priorities including: *Beyond the Border Action Plan (Lookout system and low risk traveler) *Supports other BTB database initiatives (Exit-entry/No Fly) *Reduction/prevention of documented re entry of criminal deportees and other inadmissibles with significant domestic cost savings as a result (estimated at millions annually) *Proper screening for low risk ID programs and workers at critical infrastructure *Delivers on Five Party Conference Agreement (2010) to prevent immigration fraud *Supports C-31 (Biometric screening) *Achieves a key part of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Action Plan *Delivers on stated CBSA/CIC/RCMP/TC mandates. Although it is recognized that the coordinated approach recommended is contrary to the normal 'siloed' Departmental and Agency specific practices, the result will be an operational security and trade facilitation enhancement that will ensure continuing economic growth and prosperity for Canadians. The critical first step, however, is in directing appropriate funding through Budget 2013.

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?