

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?

I believe that we need to make a strategic shift towards sustainable local economies such as those described by Chris Turner in his book *The Leap*. Renewable energy, localized agricultural production and an emphasis on local, credit union banking would be the central planks.

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?

First and foremost closing the borders to trade with nations that do not provide adequate wages and instead promote inhuman working conditions. There. We just solved the problem of under-priced and dumped imports that have crippled our manufacturing base.

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?

Elimination of all tuition fees would be ideal, however that is a provincial responsibility. Therefore the Canada Student Loans should be extended and administered by the Government and not the Chartered Banks which charge an interest rate 1% above a Line of Credit. The interest rate should be set at zero. Furthermore the Loan debt should be wiped clean if the graduate is willing to take his/her skills to under-served regions of Canada. I just solved the Doctor shortage issue for you. Tuition fees, such as I describe above, applies to all ages and all levels of education and training.

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?

The four day work week. Four on, four off for full-time labour. One, unemployment will be effectively eliminated. Two, those who cannot get by on that wage can easily add a part-time job without wearing their energies thin. Three, the lack of affordable daycare becomes less of a problem as presumably families can co-ordinate their work hours.

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 working poor and the permanently indebted. Pay of CEOs needs to be set at a ration of now more than fifteen times the wage paid to the average non-management worker within the company or corporation. That is roughly the level of France, Japan and the Scandinavian countries. This will lead to an incentive to raise workers' wages and eliminate the kind of absurd bonuses paid to the management teams of Nortel in the past and RIM at present who oversaw the destruction of companies which should have remained national treasures - at the very least their patent holdings (too late in the case of Nortel) should not be allowed to be sold outside Canada.