

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?

Faster processing of immigrant visas. Federal legislation encouraging online transactions, including legalizing and taxing online poker.

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?

Simplified tax collection measures - the current tax forms are impossibly complex beyond basic individual returns. Review and legalize various forms of internet commerce; the best way to improve Canada's economy is not to simply shuttle money faster around within Canada; it is to import money into Canada by tapping into the global supply. Faster processing of immigration to allow qualified individuals to come in and set up businesses.

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?

Education for the public on the value of trade schools and a massive de-emphasis on the importance of university programs with no practical application. Implement a gap year similar to the UK (a year between high school and university) for people to spend time learning about the real world before pursuing their Ancient Latin Poetry degree. Improve funding for high school programs that teach people about what they need to succeed in the real world.

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?

Canada cannot compete in labour intensive production with third world countries, and should not be trying to. Canada should be focusing on either high level R&D/technology jobs, or service/trade skills. There is no way that someone in Canada should be thinking they will have a career as a parts assembler or similar.

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 biggest challenges are faced by recent university graduates who did not properly think through their choices in university and are now left with substantial debts and no marketable skills. Other than that, essentially anyone with substantial debts is facing major challenges; there should be better legislation regarding the interest rates available to charge by credit card companies, and better financial education for those people who are facing substantial debts.