

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?

We do not have a spending problem, we have an income problem. If everybody and I mean everybody paid their fair share, there would be no problem at all. A tax system that does not benefit the rich and bankrupt the poor is the place to start. Manufacturing has been put on the back burner for so long that we do not manufacture much of anything anymore. Finite natural resources are just that, finite. Just because it might not run out in the very near future, it will run out and then what. While other countries governments help manufacturing, our government ships it overseas to the lowest cost producer while they continue to grow a middle class and we destroy ours.

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?

Bring the Canadian dollar to its natural rate as it is over valued by at least 20%. This alone would maintain and create good paying jobs for Canadians especially in Manufacturing instead of chasing a petro dollar. Government incentives for manufacturing much like the richest countries and the most productive countries according to the OECD rankings do. Workers today are working harder than they ever have and our current government criticizes Canadian workers for not being as productive as US workers knowing full well that the petro dollar is the only reason our productivity as workers does not increase at the rate as it does in US.

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?

We should embrace our ageing population, they are the people who built this beautiful Country. Just recently, the current government has decided to pick on these builders of our great Country and make them pay for the current governments own current sins and ideology. It has been proven by many economists that the programs we currently have are sustainable even under the end of the surge of the baby boomers. What we should be doing is bolstering what we already have to ensure that the next generation will be able to enjoy the same benefits at a minimum. When did it become a crime for all Canadians to be able to retire in dignity and enjoy the fruits of their labour not only financially.

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 only Labour market challenges we face are the restraints our current government places on workers by signing free trade deals that only allow a race to the bottom. We have been told that corporations pay less tax (lowest in the OECD countries) in order to reinvest in the current companies including newer equipment and technology to increase productivity. Instead our government concentrates on the selling of natural resources to the detriment of manufacturing as well as over inflating our dollar by at least 20%, which in turn allows our companies to quash their purchasing of newer equipment and technology because of pure cost.

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?

Our youth is behind the proverbial 8 ball before they even get started. Having tuition costs ever increasing and being so far in debt and not having a job to go to for what they went to school for is a death sentence for our youth. 11% of post secondary graduates currently work in the field that they went to school for and our actual youth unemployment rate in Canada is just under 20%. Even if our youth wanted to work, 1 in 5 cannot, to pay down their school debts, our golden age citizens are working the precarious McJobs that students use to work because the seniors are having to make decisions about whether to eat, buy their medications or pay their rent, what a shame. Even so, our youth are leaving their families and their communities in large numbers to chase precarious work, not a good start for a new beginning for our youth.