

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?

Stop cross border shopping. Stimulate the Canadian economy, rather than the US by forcing prices too high for local shoppers.

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?

Support small, rather than large 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?

Affordable education. Increased employment programs, regulating how the provinces manage money passed to them for programming. Universal childcare would encourage more women to become educated and in the work force. It is simply not affordable to have a family and pay for child care in this country. (other than Quebec)

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?

Increased focus on work-life balance so that people don't "burn-out". Better access to jobs that pay enough to have an adequate standard of living. Refocus on a national pension plan. Better health care and increased regulation of health services across the country to ensure everyone has access to proper health care would lengthen the time that people can work.

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?

Middle income families, single parents, people with disabilities and addictions. We need to focus on social programming and preventative strategies for health care, universal childcare. The federal government needs to stop downloading responsibilities to the provinces.