

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?

Fossil fuels will likely remain at the center of our energy system for some years to come. However, the traditional energy sector has an unbeatable opportunity to help ensure the nation competes and prospers in a world that, through innovation and regulation, will have sharply reduced its appetite for carbon-based energy commodities. Canada needs to invest in policies and programs to move these low-carbon new energy opportunities forward: conservation, efficiency, renewable energy sourced from wind, sun and tide.

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?

Energy efficiency programs for residential, commercial, transportation and industrial applications.

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?

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?

Environmental degradation is the challenge we are giving future generations unless we move to a low-carbon, minimal consumption economy.