

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?

Investment in local business, agriculture and services. Feeding the at-home will result in local stability which will contribute to national strength. Giving local municipalities the power and encouraging them to create sustainable systems of food, health, education, employment etc. will foster pride and a sense of purpose. People with a sense of control and purpose are people willing to work towards positive solutions for national problems.

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?

Encourage local job creation to make communities more sustainable (example, local gardens to feed people, using local materials to create necessary items). When environmental constraints limit the availability of certain goods have them shipped from locations in Canada where it is possible to make them. This way money stays in the country, businesses are stable and the country is less subject to the fluctuations of the global market.

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?

Compile a list of jobs that will experience the most shortages and distribute them to guidance offices for student perusal. Provide more support to keep older people at home, provide assistance to those caring for an older adult, encourage members of the community to familiarize themselves with basic health care procedures so they can deal with basic health situations. Invest in more apprenticeships. Avoid isolating the elderly- foster community centers that encourage interactions between the generations.

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?

Making the results of an employee's labours clearly visible. Investing in local business and activities will encourage this since the results will be seen and felt by local communities/families. Establishing networks of goods within Canada will enable the wealth of the country to stay in the country. Stabilizing the national economic case through sustainable means should be a top priority. More moderate wealth is preferable to market gambles.

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?

Competition with global businesses who can do it for less is the main threat to a stable economy and a people's standard of living. Privileging national stability over global investments will result in a better Canada for future generations as well as a more defined sense of what it means to be Canadian. Working in tandem with other Canadians to create, distribute and consume locally-made goods will help prevent disasters, from economic to environmental, from occurring. Thank you for the opportunity to have my say. May the Canadian government live up to its claim of being a democracy.