

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Stephanie Scholten

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?

Fiscal Restraint needs to start at home. What can be done to ensure that skilled professionals in federal agencies and crown corporations are actually provided meaningful tasks to do? How can we turn around the structures that support inefficiency and NOT have to close down important agencies in the name of Cost-Cutting? For example, we NEED scientists at Environment Canad!! We need many of the younger staff in these organizations who are being laid off in the name of cost-cutting. But they need to have some support to take initiative, get engaged in Canada's future and be inovative. give these young university Graduates jobs, and tell them to get to work innovating! Don't stifle them in meaningless, red-tape garbage and then lay them off !! They don't need padded pensions, they need a salary and the support to create and innovate and discover!!

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?

Grass roots. Support for the small business owner and their employees is needed to help build confidence at the household level. If people experience vibrancy in their neighbourhoods and communities, they are more likely to feel secure enough to venture. This will encourage people to take chances and risks for the economic future, rather than crawling off to protect themselves. The Federal government needs to pou increased support into small business, community services, and small scale industry. Tax incentives or hiring incentives. People (individual hard working Canadians with skills and ideas) DO NOT NEED Tax breaks to open up their businesses in Canada! only multi-national corporations whose prime Raison d"etre is bottom line Profit GROWTH need those. Quit paying attention to these and look at our own citizens, who will work hard to establish their businesses and companies, hire local, provide community stability and keep Canadians in their communities.

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 need to move quickly to develop policy and plan for increased immigration to all parts of the country. It is only with enormous growth in our population that we will be sustainable both from the perspective of tax-based money for infrastructure support and development but also to continue to have any significance globally. New policies to welcome skilled labour and Professionals, and incentives to "WELCOME" people who want to come and make Canana their home are needed desperately. As in the past immigrants will come who want to make a good life, who want to work hard and EARN a good life for themselves and their families and give back to their communities. This is how the country came into being, we need to tap into that same sort of spirit.

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?

As stated earlier, Canadians want to work, they have great ideas, and strong backs! Removing so much of the red-tape and imposed regulations will allow our highly educated population to get excited about this country and their future again. Its the old 'pioneer' spirit that we need to bring out again. So many of our young University and College grads are not able to find work, they get dispirited and lose that excitement about building a future, they move into survival thinking. At all costs we must encourage their hopes for a vibrant future, make sure they can get to work immediately! Do give money away, but allow them to get through the "hoops" and get on with fulfilling their vision for our amazing country! We need to make sure that they understand that to end up "american" is not the "happy ending:" of Canadians. A Vibrant well funded CBC is instrumental in this. Our Young people need to see that we are NOT AMERICAN, as so many think they are!

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?

Unity and national pride and identity will help to bolster our confidence and strength. I want a CBC that is properly funded so it can fulfill its mandate and give Canadians more, not less. The national broadcaster will help to support our pride and identity across all of the country, even when in many places there is economic woes. ONLY the CBC has the infrastructure in place to reach every Canadian, if the present plan to undermine the funding support of the CBC that infrastructure will deteriorate like the concrete on the Gardiner Expressway, and it will take generations to rebuild it again. Don't let this happen!