

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?

get out of the dirty OIL business... why are we putting so much energy into developing the dirty tar sands when we could be focusing on clean energy like Germany & other European countries have. They have been dealing with expensive energy for a lot more yrs than us... lets learn from them and follow their lead. Our future is NOT in old technology like TarSands... so why did the Fed gov decrease the science & research budget... it should be increased. More education on the drastic changes that need to be taken to shift from a high energy use society & economic structure to a decline in energy use... the Fed Gov needs to lead the way... not HINDER the way to a more balanced approach.

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?

Again... R&D for new industries that make use of renewable resources... it is such a mistake to go down the business as usual route. Innovation and putting systems in place like Public Transport, Bike Lanes, Community Gardens.... things that will sustain people in a new economy. The old economy is broken...

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?

Aging - much more education needs to take place to inform Canadians about the need to eat balanced meals & exercise. There are WAY too many middle age and seniors that are drains on the health care system. Teaching Wellness & prevention is a much more cost effective way to deal with aging than decreasing wait time for hip replacements. If people are educated to stay in shape, there is no need for hip surgery and other procedures that are an absolute drain on the system. Skill shortage- again education & awareness... young people are avoiding the trades because of cultural biases.... change the optics of trades and you will have lots of young people to fill the skill 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?

Some of the Baby Boomers have to stay working because they have no other options... create more housing options for the middle class seniors and they will not have to work as long and thus make way for younger (more productive??) youth.

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?

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