

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?

Fund arts and cinema. The cultural industry is important and generates economic spinoffs in all communities.

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?

The government must fund forward-thinking fields, such as renewable energies and basic research. The future is in research on green energies that are accessible to everyone. The countries that have these technologies will be at the top in a few decades.

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?

Attract young people from European countries who are educated and looking for jobs.

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?

Fund fields that are not necessarily lucrative in the short term, but that will enable Canada to become a leader in the long term (e.g. renewable energies, basic research, culture and arts).

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?

University researchers and artists are an important driving force behind the economy, and we must cultivate this wealth. Increase the number of research grants, increase funding to Telefilm Canada and the Council for the Arts.