

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?

Bureaucracy should be shaved at the top, not on the front lines. A good start would be cutting managerial and minister salaries. Health, environment and education are not replaceable or recoverable. Keeping them strong and well-funded will only help us sustain economic prosperity. We are depend on industries of natural resources, if we tap out those resources, we will have no economy.

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?

Support local industry. Stop signing international trade agreements and make sure Canada can sustain itself. If our nation can feed itself, clothe itself, provide its own health care, education, entertainment, and innovation, it will be able to employ itself.

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?

Tap Canada's largest, youngest populations: aboriginal youth and young immigrants. There are enough working-age people in the country to support the older populations, ON A DECENT PENSION PLAN AT 65 YEARS OLD, the only thing holding them back is inadequate education (high school standards should be kept, no matter what a student's race is and university should be AFFORDABLE) and lack of opportunity (keep the jobs in Canada).

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?

Diversification from natural resource exploitation: those industries have few opportunities outside of mass, unskilled labour. As well, resource-hungry industry is the least compatible with other industries. An economy with multiple industries will be most competitive, will employ most people and cultivate different skills allowing even more people to participate and help support the older populations.

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?

All across Canada, Canadians are facing the challenge of living an affordable life. The cost of living has increased everywhere. Housing is either inadequate or too expensive. Infrastructure (water and sewer, electricity, internet) is too poor in too many parts of Canada. These things need federal support because local and regional governments are failing.