

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?

Limit austerity measures so as not to quench the economy from functioning. Reverse the OAS eligibility decision and redesign MP pensions to reflect the current climate of restraint and more in line with private business. Invest in job growth thru infrastructure projects which are necessary for the long term and not frivolous short term projects. Example is to ensure the nations energy security by moving energy trans provincially first before selling outside the country. Re-instate the National Roundtable on the Environment and stop gutting environmental science and objectives. Tear down inter-provincial trade barriers so that we can be our own best manufacturers/customers and scrap the TPP Leave the CBC alone and remodel operations based on the BBC model to ensure operational stability. EI rules should be the same across provinces and increase the safety net of the unemployed when employment is more difficult secure during these times

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?

See question 1. Remove trade barriers between provinces and support rebuilding manufacturing capabilities in our nation to support domestic demand. Understand that free trade does not and has never existed and thereby rethinking how business is conducted nationally. Scrap NAFTA and disengage from TPP. Encourage co-operative business and undertake a study in steady state economics and stop talking growth where economic growth is stagnant at best and will be for some time given the global crisis remains unfixed both abroad and in NA.

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?

Widen the retraining programs that have been started for older workers and transition youth to co-share work in mentorship, succession planning in business. Upgrade college training and revamp apprenticeship programs to reflect the reality of the day. Many apprenticeship programs depend on the benefice of existing licensed professionals that you have to find to hire you and that can end up being sweatshops or abusive environments. Make the programs job ready with better oversight.

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?

Governments should place more emphasis on speed, agility and frameworks to support productivity, and less on process and entitlement. Markets need more competition to spur faster adoption of new technologies. Better interaction between university researchers and business is key (taken from Kevin Lynch)

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?

Tackle poverty as a # 1 priority Youth unemployment- they need jobs. Tuition fees should be lowered or eliminated so that more youth attend college and universities. Housing is now largely unaffordable for most people and the industry should be dismantled and re-imagined without the secrecy, lies and self-governance that has brought us to the situation we find ourselves. Unaffordable housing increases tensions in managing one's life and career. The measures the Finance Minister has invoked are too little too late and the loosening of lending and extensions of mortgages were a colossal mistake that we will be reaping for a long time given the economic fragility of our day