

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Chris Taylor

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?

The current free trade agreements along with the ones that are currently being discussed will only further erode our ability to compete with countries that do not have our same standards of living or living expense, do not practice our health and safety and so on. The Manufacturing sector in this country needs to be revived and Free Trade will not allow that. Further to the above, tax loop holes must be closed and the wealthy of Canada need to be taxed at the same rate as every day workers. All Canadians have to made to pay their fair share and businesses must be included.

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?

Stop the enhancing international trade with Free Trade agreements. If a country only pays their workers a portion of our wages to make the same product that we do, then put tariffs on their products that they send here to make it a level playing field. Stop defending an over valued dollar based only on resources such as oil, the rest of Canada outside of the Western Provinces is paying for this in lost jobs.

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?

Increase CPP to allow the older population to still be prominent as consumers and buyers and to reduce their dependence on Government programs. This would not cost the Government as it is Employer and Employee funded. As for Skills shortages, my son is an Electrician by Trade and just received his Certificate of Qualification. Throughout his apprenticeship, he had to pay for every thing including \$1500 for school and upwards of \$1000 for books and then to make matters worse, he has to wait for unemployment insurance while he is in school. Understanding that apprenticeships are Provincial, make funding available from the Feds to pay for apprentices to make it more appealing.

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?

Our aging population are being forced to stay in the labour market longer and now with proposed changes to the OAS eligibility it will get worse. Productivity can not be improved by maintaining an older work force and freezing out our younger workers from entering the work force. Stop talking about Canada being not being able to compete, we can compete with any one in the world, but not with a Country such as Mexico that pays their workers \$3.00 per hour or Koreans making \$1.00 per hour. FREE

TRADE does not work Fair Trade will

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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