

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?

A balanced approach to economic development across all regions as opposed to the current favoritism weighted towards the Tarsands development and Northern Gateway Pipeline. I also don't see how increasing Canada's prison population will result in a net gain in economic growth or job creation. Perhaps by redirecting the funds need to build super prisons into creating enhanced access to education, the government would be encouraging a "value added" component to Canada's workforce instead of tossing its citizens in jail where the only thing they'll learn is how to be successful criminals.

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 US economy will eventually recover, as will Europe's so I don't think it's a good idea for our Prime Minister to lecture other world leaders on how to manage their current difficulties because that will only serve to encourage retaliation later.

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?

If our population is aging, it follows that geriatric and funeral services services are going to be growth industries for a frantic but brief period of time. It seems to me that we should be encouraging people to retire at the age of 60 (as opposed to 67). This would open up a flood of positions on the labour market for younger people who are struggling with high unemployment. The money saved in the total amount EI would be paying out could be directed to educating the younger generation so they can take advantage of the widened job market left behind by the retiring seniors.

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?

Educate the younger population instead of focusing on imprisoning them! They're the next working generation. Do you want them to be paying taxes and contributing to society or do you just want to warehouse them to get them out of the way?

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?

"Dutch Disease" is a reality in Canada. A more balanced approach to economic development is needed to protect the regions of Canada that are struggling under a high dollar and are unable to export their products as a result. As regards the Tarsands - the value-added work of refining should be done here in Canada, but the current high petro-dollar is an impediment. Perhaps reigning in the Tarsands development enough to bring balance to our dollar value would go a long way in remedying the situation.