

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Richard Tyssen

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?

I do not believe that continuous economic growth can be supported environmentally. I believe we need to take a new approach, something like the one outlined in Peter Victor's book, *Managing Without Growth* (see <http://vimeo.com/16906655>).

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?

To encourage growth of jobs I believe taxes need to be taken off of labour (such as payroll taxes, by reducing income taxes but making them more progressive, etc.) and placed on natural resources, on carbon, on pollution, on economic rent, and on land. We want to encourage more use of labour and discourage the depletion of natural resources and pollution.

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?

I believe the Canada Pension Plan should be expanded in coverage to help prevent seniors falling into poverty. The federal government should also support job training for a new "green" economy, promoting energy and resources conservation, developing renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture. The current government's pursuit of the tar sands development is a huge mistake, both environmentally and economically.

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?

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?

The biggest challenge facing Canada and the world is climate change. The consequences of business as usual will be global catastrophe (see <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2011/09/28/330109/science-of-global-warming-impacts/?mobile=nc>). The current federal government is largely ignoring this issue and

in fact promoting greater greenhouse gas emissions. I cannot say strongly enough how wrong I feel this is. Addressing climate change will change society fundamentally. Not addressing climate change will also change society fundamentally. However, the one course leads to hope and the other leads to global catastrophe and enormous suffering and loss of life.