

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?

Restrict resource exports and support development of Canadian manufacturing and small business. Stop export of raw logs, minerals and bitumen. Support business that wants to turn these resources into commodities. Support organic farming, enhance fisheries, The current approach - to triple oilsands development - and ship to China is economically risky and does not benefit Canadians. Just days after Bill C38 was passed there was news about hiring workers from the US and China. These are the countries that own most of our oilsands and we should put Canadians first. Let us keep our resources for us to develop and control.

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?

Eliminate exporting raw resources, as these export jobs. Support the development of manufacturing and processing raw resources in Canada. Invest in oil refineries to create jobs in Canada. Invest in education and the high tech industry. Support the development of alternative energy, electric vehicles, infrastructure to support electric vehicles. Support fisheries enhancement. Subsidize organic food production and small farmers.

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?

The biggest worry of our time is that youth unemployment is the highest its ever been. In order to support an aging population, the Government should support youth in finding solid employment opportunities. Young people are the ones who will be paying into the system for the longest now. Youth training & employment is crucial. If youth earn more, they pay more taxes, then this supports aging population. We need to encourage healthier lifestyles for all people, as this will reduce medical expenses. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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?

Training programs for young people. If there is support to create more development of resources, this should be accompanied by training young people to do the work. Young people do not want minimum wage jobs in restaurants, but careers that they can be engaged in. There should be more emphasis put on getting higher education, along with opportunities for young people to work to reduce their debt.

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?

Destruction of the environment to support oilsands development is the biggest challenge. Many people's livelihood will be adversely affected in BC if a pipeline is put in. It will spill and ruin some of the largest salmon runs in the world. It would pollute the Fraser River, Skeena River, Pacific Ocean. Need to have the oilsands industry pay NOW for the pollution its doing. Need to have accurate information about cancer rates in FN who live near resource extraction sites. Young people are facing the greatest challenges in Canadian history. They have the highest employment rate since records have been taken, highest tuition for training, and highest real estate prices. They need to be given rewarding jobs.