

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?

I think people have lost trust in the federal leadership... so many necessary agencies being compromised through cutbacks, so much waste, so many places where integrity is being questioned. If the federal leadership would be more transparent and honest, trust could be restored, and people would feel more inclined to spend, invest, get involved; and the economic recovery and growth would happen as a healthy natural result.

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?

Jobs connected to a federal government commitment to climate-change action, including developing green strategies. Jobs connected to a federal government commitment to improvement of the nation's important web of infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges).

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?

A national program to train young people (for newly created jobs) to take care of older people (and agencies to license the new health-care-givers to be able to work in people's homes as well as in full-care facilities; the building of more full-care facilities (perhaps instead of building more prisons?).

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?

Whatever jobs have been outsourced to other countries, bring them back to Canada. Offer incentives for private business to do the same.

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?

First Nations face challenges too numerous to name; this should be a first concern to all federal governments, but has been shuffled out the back door every time. This inaction/avoiding is immoral and unethical, and in addition to actually aiding in Canadian deaths, it will come back to bite the country sooner or later. Get together with Grand Chief Atleo and figure this one out, NOW! No more costly

studies. It's not a popular item -- so few people and not an important vote-courting demographic -- but First Nations communities' issues have become a serious blight on Canada's beautiful canvas.