

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?

Raise the Bank of Canada rate to deter people from acquiring more debt. Increase taxes for high income earners and large corporations to increase revenue. Raise the GST one percentage point to increase national revenue.

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?

Create some programs to reward individuals and businesses who want to increase their energy conservation or invest in clean or renewable energy projects, such as homebuilders and small recycling firms. Create policies that provide incentives for manufacturers to reduce their packaging. Require minimum packaging. Support social housing initiatives. Create new national parks and historic sites.

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 immigration of skilled workers. Restore English as a Second language funding and support for immigrant centres and their programs. Restore manpower job training funding to increase the number of young people attending post-secondary education and provide opportunities for laid-off or unemployed workers. Increase federal funding of new positions related to care of the elderly, particularly in public sector health and social service organizations.

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?

Provide funding for full time positions that require a younger worker to shadow an older worker in a wide variety of disciplines for a period of months.

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?

Restore the federal Court Challenges program so individuals with special issues have access to the courts. Restore the protection of fish habitat. Increase the flexibility in the new environmental review process to account for large projects and the volume of public consultations. Take the money planned

for building of new prisons and invest it in the creation of positions for new judges, community-based programs, and technological support of the judicial processes to reduce the delays now common within the system.