

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Rick Walbourne

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 feel that enhanced economic growth is important however we should not do this with a total disregard to our natural resources and does people that manage such resources. Very specific changes for very specific industry types could have been made to address these issues as opposed to a large-scale legislative upheaval of environmental protection legislation.

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?

Prior to worrying about job creation, a priority should be to avoid mass layoffs especially when many of the public service jobs being cut are important. As well, increasing pensionable age will obviously make the workforce older and result in less opportunities for the younger generation resulting in an increased unemployment rate. Has it been determined that the savings from these changes will counter that costs associated with it?

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?

See previous answer. The government is exacerbating the situation with changes to social security. As well, the mass layoff of public servants will not hit older management folks as they are "protected". The brunt of these layoffs is hitting people in their 30s. I am a public servant and in my office alone of 17, 8 people were given affected letters between the ages of 32-40. You have targetted your prime workforce demographic with these cuts and I'm sure you are even aware of it.

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?

