

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Wellesley Institute

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?

Enhanced investment in the social, health and economic infrastructure of Canada - specifically, restore federal investments in affordable housing to the levels following the 2009 federal budget.

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?

Social infrastructure investments - such as affordable housing investments - have a strong economic and jobs impact, as reported in the Seventh Economic Action Plan Report to Canadians. These investments are certain to boost jobs and other economic fundamentals across Canada.

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?

Good quality, affordable housing is a fundamental requirement for accessing and maintaining jobs - especially in high-growth areas of the country. Good quality, affordable housing for seniors is a fundamental requirement for a healthy and dignified life.

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?

Direct federal investment in social infrastructure will boost productivity through jobs and other economic fundamentals.

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?

Growing poverty and income inequality - as documented by OCED, Conference Board and others - is a serious challenge for Canada that can be met by increased federal social infrastructure investments, including returning federal affordable housing spending to the level of 2009.