

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?

Given the current and growing inequities in our society I would like to see government take a leading role in: -social programs to aid in poverty reduction -programs to enhance education, particularly in First Nations -housing first programs for the homeless -coordination of non-profit organizations with missions to assist in poverty reduction -reinforcement of environmental controls on mineral and resource development, protection of fisheries and water quality Reasoning: equal societies with good quality environments are the most likely to succeed in the current difficult economy.

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?

Reinforce educational and training programs associated with EI and reinstate EI benefits to pre 2012 budget status. While foreign worker programs can be an effective stop-gap, we need to train Canadians to participate fully in our economy. Thus it is logical to increase funding to Universities and increase funding to Blue Sky type initiatives. Funding with too many directed outcomes actually limits our creativity and thus our competitiveness on an international stage. If we do invite people here to work with us to create a stronger Canada we need to take on the responsibility of treating them well and providing them with rights, including the right to become a citizen of the country in whose economy they are participating.

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?

Implement and negotiate Native land claims. Give the largest and fastest growing segment of our population a real stake in the country and a reason for participating to help our country grow. Stop treating First Nations as second class citizens and begin a new, fair and egalitarian relationship between all Canadians. Associated with that would be working with First Nations governments in the establishment of quality schools and effective education for First nations Children to help them help Canada.

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?

Clean air, clean water and clean soil will help us to produce food and a new generation of healthy Canadians. Work to protect the environment so that Canadians can live in a healthy place and be able to work productively whatever their occupation.

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?

The poor, the homeless, First Nations all face important challenges that need to be addressed urgently. The growing inequity of our society needs to be stopped and reversed. Equal societies are more productive, safer and happier. - Housing first initiatives are a proven way to re-integrate people into productive society - First Nations Land Claims and creation of First Nations Governments across the country - Breakfast and food programs for children in school are an absolute necessity - Free before and after school and daycare - Environmental protection laws that are effectively enforced with strong disincentives to transgressors. These things will help individuals and businesses in Canada to flourish. PS avoid large omnibus legislation at all costs. Parliament is for talking and discussion. Democracy is important to Canadians, transparency and fairness are paramount to my Canada.