

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Marlene Yanchula

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 the government should invest in make work projects for the unemployed. Lets have roads and bridges built for example. I also think it's time to regulate the banks because the interest rates on debts are too high. If the banks had to borrow money from the Bank of Canada we would have a different economy. Don't give me blarney that tax breaks on wealthy corporations leads to them creating more jobs. They will take their tax breaks and invest otherwise. In the U.S. corporations with tax breaks are forced to prove how they have created new jobs. Stop shipping our jobs out of the country. Corporations will do this because it is cheaper labour and Canadians are left without those jobs.

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?

Please see my answer in question 2.

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?

Skill shortages can be made up by educating the population. If the banks didn't charge such a high interest rate on student loans we wouldn't have a skill shortage. In the meantime training grants will have to do. I don't believe giving a tax break to those who made it to employment will solve anything. If you mean the skill shortage left as people retire then you still have to train the younger ones to catch up. In wealthy corporations they can train their own. The aging Canadian population varies in how they should be treated. I want to see more investment in nursing home care. In Ontario they challenged the health minister to go around in a diaper for a day. This happened because diapers cost money and staff weren't changing the diapers often enough. I don't believe in private health care for anything.

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?

This capitalistic economy is competitive enough. Some economists say all the wealthy countries of the world are in a depression, not recession. If recessions go on too long that's a depression. Why worry about competitiveness now?

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?

I think the homeless are the most challenged. Not only do they often lack a home but they need more health care. Stop decentralizing the psychiatric residents. The U.S. did that and more people ended up homeless. Institutions keep residents out of the streets. Often the hospitals are so crowded you can't get a psychiatric patient to be treated. It becomes a triage situation. Twenty years ago in Calgary Alberta it was illegal to turn away anyone wanting to be in the hospital. Now we can't get a psychiatric patient in the hospital unless it's a dire emergency. So build more hospitals! There are homeless who are on drugs and alcohol and that keeps them homeless. It is helpful for some to get the help to have a home first and that is fine for some. Others need to be put in drug and alcohol treatment facilities. In the U.S. they have lock up treatment centres. The only treatment facility in Calgary that is a lock up is for teenagers under the age of eighteen. They don't get out until they are clean and sober and it works. We need the same treatment centres for adults who are homeless.