

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

James Askew

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?

Investment in sustainable, renewable energy technology and power projects is the best way to create a long term, economic program. We can't be short-sighted and continue to export our raw resources to prop up our 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?

Again, we need to invest money and resources into a world-class renewable, clean energy program. Invest the tax money and other proceeds generated from our old-style resource and energy production economy into a new one that promotes clean energy. This will be a massive economy driver in 10 to 20 years, but we need to aggressively go after this market now rather than waiting till fossil fuels have become undesirable world-wide.

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?

1. Allow more immigration of skilled workers from more countries, not just wealthy immigrants or refugees. Then invest in training and assimilating them into the Canadian culture and way of life. Don't abandon them after they get here. Also, allow them to practice their skills without forcing them to retake complicated and expensive trade exams, such as medical and engineering etc. 2. More investment into education and skills training. More access to student bursaries. More private-public education and mentorship programs.

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?

1. Need to stop eroding Canada's environmental programs, budgets and protection in order to allow easier approvals of recourse based business. 2. Stop giving the oil industry a billion dollars in tax savings and other benefits and instead invest that money into programs to kick start and support non-resource business such as clean energy technology etc.