

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?

I believe the government has gone too far in cutting back on expenditures and that more government spending is needed to spur growth. The debt and deficit are at manageable levels and do not need aggressive cost-cutting measures. Instead, the government should invest in environmental initiatives and green technologies, social spending and programs to reduce youth poverty.

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?

The government should invest in industries that process our resources here in Canada instead of simply sending them overseas. It should prioritize environmental and green technology investment which will be the growth industries of the future. There should be an emphasis on retraining for these and other industries and away from resource extraction. Another program of infrastructure investment emphasizing urban mass transit should be undertaken.

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?

Encourage younger immigrants with specific skills to immigrate here. Provide job training and apprenticeship programs to young people and retraining programs for older workers.

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?

Incentives for industry to invest in upgrading plants and equipment and in retraining workers for new kinds of jobs and work environments.

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 those most challenged are older workers being laid off and young people just entering the workforce. Older workers need counselling or retraining to transition to a new career, while young people may need vocational training, career advice or apprenticeship programs to match them up with

prospective employers. Particular fields such as agriculture and fisheries will face challenges as climate change affects their livelihoods, so the federal government needs immediately to get behind efforts to mitigate climate change instead of being an obstacle to action.