

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?

Tax incentives, e.g. increased capital cost allowance percentages, to encourage the purchase of more productive capital goods for the manufacturing sector as more tax measures to encourage more research and development and training by businesses. More tax incentives for individuals to increase their education, specifically in the skilled trades for occupations that cannot be outsourced to other countries and in those occupations in which a labor shortage is already occurring or will be occurring in the next few years.

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?

See my previous response.

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?

Tax incentives for younger individuals to take up such occupations. As well, an increase in funding for technical educational institutions (e.g. community colleges) so they will have the capacity to train such individuals. For those occupations that require apprenticeship, tax relief for those organization who take on apprentices. An advertising campaign may be needed to target those in the younger age groups to consider such a career.

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?

See my response to my first question.

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?

For charities, to obtain funding from taxpayers for their purposes which often align with the services that are provided by the federal government without the bureaucratic overlay. To do so, charities would benefit from having the five year carry forward limit changed to a lifetime carry forward such as with RRSPs. This would encourage more contributions to be made earlier in a taxpayer's life. For individual income taxpayers, the ability to designate what their taxes would be used for would go a long way in reducing the number and vehemence of complaints about the tax system as it would provide them with much more of a say on how their tax money was spent as opposed to the current feeling of feeding a black hole. This would benefit the federal government as it could tap the wisdom of the individual taxpayers as a whole. It would give the federal government a much better feel as to the what the taxpayers really value as important to them as opposed to polling or requesting submissions to the Standing Committee on Finance on specific questions.