

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?

Increased funding to both tourism and the arts. The economic spinoff is exponentially rewarded. Government support of these industries is vital and the investment made spins millions of dollars into the economy. Attracting foreigners to visit our country means that the money spent and the resulting collection of sales tax will benefit all Canadians. As an added benefit, we are enriching our cultural landscape which improves Canada's brand and recognition as a civilized, cultured nation.

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?

An increase in funding the small businesses in Canada will help to support those who are helping themselves. Included in those small businesses are artists. Typically, artists are self-employed, which means they create their own work, support themselves financially without drawing on government programs such as EI, or Workers Compensation. This is partly due to the fact that until recently, artists were not eligible to opt into those programs. Nevertheless, Canadian artists are a significant population who create work, jobs, own houses, and create economic spinoff from their work.

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?

Better access to and education about home care, and increased funding for hospices. The longer we can keep seniors in their own homes, the more hospital beds we have available for those who are in urgent need. The more hospices that we have beds available in, means that primary caregivers within the family are able to get a respite from the exhausting (both emotionally and financially) task of caring for their aging family members. It would also be a good social program to train new Canadians, or those out of work, for a career in that segment of the healthcare industry

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?

Start young. We need to instill a solid work ethic in the new generation. Lower tuition rates so that those who work hard can afford to go to school, and also lower the number of students admitted. Students should have to compete for the place in University and we will graduate less, but better members of the work force. With less people being able to get a University degree, perhaps then people will look at the trades as a career. We need more plumbers, electricians, etc. Our skilled labour

force is dying. we need to encourage more people to pursue the trades.

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?

Small businesses face the biggest challenges. Those small businesses are the face of the community in which we live, work and shop. We need to increase funding to small businesses and foster self-starters. We also need to stop the culture of putting down artists and arts organizations. These artists and organizations are viable businesses that have cultural significance, a measurable economic spinoff, and a competitive spirit that is second to none. Artists employ people, and the time has come to stop maligning artists as lazy dreamers with their hands out. Nobody characterized the auto sector when their business required government support. Artists work just as hard, and are paid far less, and the artistic community doesn't access EI or worker's compensation AT ALL. Who is the industry with more competitive spirit, better work ethic, and more self-sustaining?