

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?

Massive investment in the cultural sector. It is the main industry in Montreal. Canada has had an impact on the world because of its cultural industry—not the oil sands, not its sound economic management, not its laws, but its culture. The budgets of the Canada Council for the Arts, Sodec and other cultural organizations should be increased significantly in order to support economic recovery. It is culture that forges a strong cultural identity, a healthy country.

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?

Massive investment in culture and all its ramifications.

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?

Help SMEs by providing tax credits.

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?

The best way to increase productivity in Canada is to invest in the cultural industry. Every dollar invested in culture returns a greater amount. Hundreds of thousands of jobs depend on the cultural industry in Montreal.

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?

Artists and aboriginals are the communities that are most neglected. The Canada Council for Arts and aboriginal communities need money.

