

## **Centre de réadaptation en dépendance Le Virage**

### **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?*

CRD Le Virage is an addiction treatment centre in Quebec. Through the services that we provide to clients, we are seeing that the current economic climate, especially the employment situation, is having a tremendous impact on the addiction landscape. Introducing and supporting measures conducive to labour force re-entry is crucial. These measures are especially vital for the most vulnerable members of society. The manner in which a society treats the homeless, drug addicts and those struggling with mental health issues is often a reflection of its prosperity. The more prosperous the society, the better it treats those in need. A strong image of prosperity gives investors confidence and attracts new capital. Therefore, we cannot ensure the strongest economic recovery possible without putting measures in place that support the social and professional reintegration of vulnerable individuals. The Canada-Quebec agreement on the Drug Treatment Funding Program (DTFP) is an excellent example of a tangible step towards the economic recovery of a segment of Canada's population.

#### **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?*

1. Measures that encourage employee skills development (training, academic curriculum and university programs tailored to the needs of employers).
2. Measures that build and support Canada's raw material processing sector.
3. Support for the nationalization of natural resources.
4. Social reintegration programs.
5. Labour force re-entry programs.
6. SME expansion programs.
7. "Buy Canadian" legislation, similar to that adopted by our neighbour to the south.

#### **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?*

There is currently labour force availability that is not being used. One of the first steps should be ensuring that all Canadians who are able to work can work. People who have worked nearly their entire lives may be frustrated by the fact that they have to keep working because the retirement age has increased, while a segment of the population that could join the workforce stays at home. Social and professional reintegration measures are vital to make use of all those who are willing and able to work. Everyone must have the ability to contribute to the country's economic development. Working allows people to build their sense of self-esteem, of pride and of personal/financial ability (purchasing power). Social reintegration programs for those suffering with addiction makes rehabilitation possible by giving

them an opportunity to return to Canadian society as responsible and active citizens who contribute to the country's economic development.

#### **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?*

Increased productivity necessitates a shift in thinking. Canadian workers need to see productivity as a source of pride rather than a source of income for employers. It is important for workers to make the connection between high productivity, and a thriving economy and positive outlook for their businesses. Every Canadian must feel that enhanced productivity will benefit them as well, not just their employers. Given that we have a population of fairly healthy workers who are skilled and educated, there is no reason why productivity should be lacking, other than people's attitudes and beliefs. What's more, we must not confuse productivity and profit. Naturally, high productivity raises profits, but Canadian society feels strongly that workers need to be treated well by employers. Therefore, employers also have to do their part by recognizing that good working conditions foster high productivity, but that those conditions can affect profit margins.

#### **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?*

The most vulnerable people in our line of business are those suffering from addiction, homelessness and mental health issues. It is crucial to support these individuals so we can offer them programs not just for rehabilitation when possible, but also and more importantly, for social and professional reintegration.