

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 feel we, as a country, need to focus on what is best for our country, including job growth, in all sectors, and environmental health. Without the environment, there is no economy. Our government is too focused on the money that can be gained with selling more Canadian oil, but that has severe negative effects on the environment, lets put our funding into the environment and with that we can produce more jobs. Get more environmentally friendly/green jobs, help with areas that all citizens are interested in using (including national parks and conservation areas). Help small business's grow, and support local endeavours.

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?

Job creation can come by supporting local buisness's, helping new grads get jobs (for which their qualifications meet) and keep local citizens employed. As a newer grad, I find it very hard to find a job, especially in the environmental field, but am overqualified for any other job. We need to create jobs for the grads and programs that are offered locally.

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?

I think that we need to help our aging populations, build more extended living housing and making it more affordable. Also, employee more doctors and nurses which may help our aging population live where they are comfortable while still being safe and not putting a lot of strain on our medical fields. As for skills shortages, I think more advertising of trades and skills and how important they are will help. It was so engrained that you need a university degree, that few people think of the trades. But with more information about trades, more people may be interested in this instead of university and could help with shortages in skill trades.

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?

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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 environment is being neglected the most. We need to focus our energy on environmental studies, not just by private companies, but by scientific researchers from universities and public services. Reports on assessments and monitoring are critical for policy changes and protecting our natural resources. We need these resources and we need a healthy environment to live in. We need to protect species, and focus our energy on cleaning up our environment and sustainable use of our natural resources. By increasing funding, re-instating legislation that protects fisheries, and doing more studies on the impacts of population growth, climate change, and the pipeline, we will be able to better protect our environment and allow for all citizens to re-connect with nature. Canada is known for its gorgeous scenery, and if things continue, based on the legislation that has been changed in this budget, we are going to be a concrete jungle and desert and there will be no more beauty left in this country :(