

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Gary Cowell

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 think it would be beneficial to build an oil refinery in Ont or Que, and ship our Bitumen from Ab to the refinery, which will require a large diameter pipeline from Ft. McMurry to refinery site. This would be a midterm length of project which has the potential to employ many from the manufacturing belt in construction of both the refinery and the pipeline. Canada would then benefit from the refining of crude oil, keeping those refining jobs at home.

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?

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 training of our underexploited aboriginal population, this would give them incentive to work in our refineries (see answer to last question), and assimilate better to Canadian society. Our aboriginal population is one segment of our society that is not suffering from an aging population.

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?

I refer again to the answer to the first question. The construction of a large refinery in Ont or Que would be a long term event. These refineries can take up to 15 years to construct, thereby offering an excellent training ground to give our aboriginal youth the skills necessary to get out of cycle of poverty and hopelessness that now prevails. Having our own refinery instead of selling raw crude of itself increases productivity.

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?

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