

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?

Acceptance of need for deficit financing to support direct job producing initiatives such as infrastructure projects. Investment in alternative energy.

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?

As mentioned, infrastructure development. Restore EI benefits, develop future-oriented training programmes. Focus on industries of the future -green energy, digital, etc.-rather than industries of the past -auto, oil, etc.

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?

Continue to liberalize immigration policy. Reverse tightening of pension policy, given there is a persistent unemployment problem, so younger people, immigrants can be assured jobs. Remove barriers to young people buying homes, boosting economy, especially the burden of student debt.

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 see no problem with Canadian 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?

Regional disparity is increasing. The income inequality among Canadians is widening. These are dangerous trends for the economy and undermine democracy itself.