

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?

Training and skills development support for workers at risk of long-term unemployment. Encourage small businesses to invest in individualized workplace training.

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?

Investment in workplace training; support to SMEs for the renewal of production technologies; make individual skills assessment and skills development opportunities available to Canadian workers every two years; provide more training to unemployed workers at risk of long-term unemployment; facilitate access to credit for SMEs in response to tighter bank lending criteria; no interest rate increases; maintain the Canadian dollar at competitive levels.

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?

Match immigrants' skills with labour market needs; make the obligation to hold a job a condition of immigration; support businesses in hiring and integrating people from outside Canada; provide more support for workplace training to make employees versatile; encourage a diverse range of choices for occupational, technical and academic training consistent with the labour market needs of each province.

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?

Support investment in SMEs; support research and development by SMEs; increase workplace training; introduce worker skills development plans and meet individual training needs; support older workers in their efforts to stay employed, without incurring tax losses; promote businesses that hire experienced workers; hire immigrants within two weeks following their arrival in the country; support worker mobility in accordance with labour market needs and jobs in demand; reduce professional associations' restrictions on foreign workers.

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?

Individuals without high school diplomas (school drop-outs), persons with disabilities, individuals who have a criminal record, experienced individuals (50 years of age and over), women heads of single-parent families with dependent children, Aboriginal women, immigrants, underemployed immigrants (overqualified for the jobs they occupy); if the aforementioned persons face greater challenges if they live in regions without transportation, those challenges are that they do not meet labour market requirements and need training (in the workplace or prior to employment) and support to overcome personal obstacles.