

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Federation of Canadian Music Festivals

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?

A truly national vision, one that promotes and fosters education, artistic and cultural activity as well as economic stimulation. At present, there is too much regional and provincial isolation. The recent stimulation in the area of sport is a good example of what needs to be done but even that is not filtering down enough to the grass-roots level. Citizens of Canada need to see the results in their own communities as well as at the elite level. After all, communities are the training ground for excellence.

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?

Encourage more investment opportunities for Canadians in Canadian companies. More support for education, arts and culture. ie. all areas of society where the direct economic impact is not necessarily apparent at the surface level.

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?

1. Increase RRSP and TFSA contribution limits, perhaps indexing? 2. Encourage investment in retirement homes and full-service care facilities 3. Reverse the decision to delay OAS 4. More support of non-academic programs in colleges and technical schools. Where has apprenticeship gone? 5. Encourage financial support of registered Canadian charities through greater tax reduction

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?

Volunteerism and community activism needs more support in terms of tax breaks or financial compensation. It is absolutely amazing how much work is being done in communities and organizations across the country that is adding to our standard of living and creating opportunities for Canadians. This is THE real underground economy and should be encouraged!!

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 artistic community is in my view, most in need of support. Specifically, where education and training is involved. There are many organizations that foster development of appreciation and interaction amongst participants that have great difficulty attracting sponsorship from corporations like sports is able to. The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals is one such prestigious organization whose aim is to educate and follow the progress of young amateur musicians from the grass-roots level up to pre-professional status. Here is a truly national vision, linking participants together artistically from all Provinces and across Canada. Yet, there is no support from the federal government. This is absolutely shocking. Federal support of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals would filter down to communities and make a real difference across the country as a whole.