

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?

We need to adopt an outlook that takes into account all of Canadian industry. In light of the current global climate, we must realize that we do not operate in a vacuum and that we have to contribute to the global economy.

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?

In terms of economic uncertainty around the world, Canada may have a leg-up. We need to build possible friendships with stakeholders in the third world. Those relationships will prove beneficial strictly in the long run. That is what you call an investment.

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?

There are two possible solutions. Either we have children and educate them, or we borrow the children of others. Simply put, we help Canadian families have more children, or we open our borders up to immigrants. Another approach might be to look to the third world, select a million children, educate them in their native countries at a lower cost, then give them Canadian passports and bring them to Canada to work. No matter what approach is taken, none of us will live to see the outcome of the policies that are introduced; we will be long dead by then.

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?

We need to pass legislation that limits the salaries and pensions of MPs to three times the equivalent earned by Canadians below the poverty line. Ministers and the prime minister should be limited to that same equivalent times 10 and 15, respectively.

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 Romans would use games and wine. We need to keep young people busy. We need to invest in the potential of our communities, and that means less police and more social workers. We need to trust our children and let them know as much.

