

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Margo Grant

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?

This government is placing too much emphasis on economic growth at the expense of other important area.

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?

What a ridiculous question. This government has no interest in job creation. If it did it would not be closing government departments and engaging in massive layoffs of civil servants. SPECIFIC federal action would be to reinstate those positions. Also, establishing national programs for housing and childcare (for example) would create many thousands of jobs.

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?

We are not going to be able to change the demographics sufficiently in a short timeframe. We need to have programs to ensure good health and excellent education for young people that will well-equip them to handle the burden of the future. Things such as childcare programs, better public education, affordable housing, healthcare, recreation programs, efficient transportation -- things that contribute to a better quality of life -- all could enable young people to consider having more children. Obviously, immigration needs to be encouraged. In the meantime, until the demographics do change, sufficient resources need to be directed to ensuring the elderly are well-cared for.

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 are not going to be more productive with fewer people trying to do the work. Stop cutting federal civil service positions! All you are doing is creating more unemployment, less productivity, and seriously inhibiting Canada's ability to operate a decent country.

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?

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE: The federal government needs to improve support for First Nations governments and invest in education systems, health services, community infrastructure. This situation is shameful and disgraceful. POOR PEOPLE: One in 10 Canadians lives in poverty. Most of these people are Aboriginal, women, and children. This can be addressed through affordable housing strategies, childcare programs, tax fairness (ending loopholes and tax cuts to corporations and high-income Canadians), education, health services, pharmacare programs.