

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?

I would like to see less spending and a change in income by the government of Canada. Spending is very hard to reduce, but I don't believe the reduction in government employees is a good way to save money. Those are peoples lives, along with the fact that you are only paying the 60-80% of a wage as you collect taxes back from them. Also this reduction in employment affects every other aspect in the economy, housing, groceries etc. Income changes in my opinion, there should be a debt reduction surtax like we had previously, for income over a certain amount pay 3-5%. Also, GST should be increased but removed for essentials (i.e. power, water, food etc)

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?

First for job creation, stop cutting government jobs. You want job creation and yet you cut jobs. For other job creation, you can give a tax break on companies that hire, maybe even raise taxes on those that cut and are making millions/billions of dollars. Don't lower business tax, this does not promote hiring, as you can tell from the past 10 years with the US and Canada. This only makes more profit for the rich companies.

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 should be money put towards retraining older people (say over 40) to finding new careers as long as they work in that career for more than 10 years. And incentive to go back to school and learn a new trade. More money is needed to fund the people that look after the elderly. Home care aides and others that look after the elderly should be adequately paid for this, these are people that are looking after other peoples parents.

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?

Canada has to partner with companies to encourage them to come to Canada. We also need to build more infrastructure (and create jobs) in areas such as refineries, mills in the west. We need better incentives for people to create industry back in Canada. Instead of purchasing everything from Asia. We need to encourage older people to go back to school to get in to job in a labor market shortage.

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?

Seniors are one of the biggest having issues. Low income seniors should not be taxed, and their CPP and OAS should be going up based on true inflation (including gas, food etc). Federal and provincial employees wages are not keeping up with inflation, which in return lowers their spending on non essentials which affects the economy. A raise to anyone benefits both the federal and provincial governments on income tax return. A 5% raise isn't truly 5%. Minimum wage should be increased in every province. How do you expect minimum wage earners to live with housing, food, gas, heat, water going up 5-15% a year and their wage staying the same. Small business owners that can't afford this can maybe get tax breaks if their net income is below a certain number. Minimum wage should be \$13-15.00 an hour. That is only \$30,000 or less a year, hardly enough to buy a car, house on, and in some location not enough to rent an apartment and live.