

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?

A transition to a green economy with associated training opportunities for people needing to/ wanting to change careers. Economic benefits from being a leader in this field while improving our environment and re-establishing Canada's reputation in this area. For shorter term growth, infrastructure projects such as highway/ bridge repair, national park facilities etc would provide a boost to the 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?

Infrastructure projects. Enhancement of park facilities that will in turn result in increased usage and tourism revenue in association with international marketing of Canada as a destination. Tax breaks to companies keeping jobs in Canada rather than outsourcing and provide incentives for companies to locate in rural rather than just urban centres to provide an economic base for smaller communities.

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?

Create a program that allows retired people to transfer their skills and knowledge to youth. Support apprenticeship programs through tax incentives or other measures. Don't force people into mandatory retirement if they prefer to work. Ensure that higher education is available to everyone by providing support to those who want to acquire new skills and knowledge but cannot afford to.

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?

Rather than just exporting our raw resources abroad to buy back later as finished products, create more secondary industry in Canada. Eliminate unnecessary trade restrictions between provinces.

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?

Traditional manufacturing jobs are disappearing; therefore, it's important to have training available to assist people in the transition towards a green economy. Efforts to expand the economic base of communities should be undertaken to avoid collapses associated with the one employer of a town such

as a mill/ automobile factory going under financially.