

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Krister Holmes

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 think austerity has proven over and over again to not work. I think we need to listen to economists and regard history instead of making up nonsense that benefits the most wealthy and calling it the way forward when history and thinking people all agree it's utter nonsense. I think we need to work at helping people rather than incarcerating them. It costs the same amount of money, why wouldn't we try to help instead of lock up and screw up further. I think putting the environment and super responsible sustainable development back into our priorities will help Canada in the long run and return us to the position of global innovators we have since lost in the long years creativity and intelligence have suffered under the Harper Government. I think giving tax breaks and incentives to innovators interested in the future of Canada is better placed than the billions of dollars we pay out or refuse to collect from oil companies who's only result is the decimation of any future this country is to have. I think we desperately need environmental regulation, monitoring and science. Science is important to sustained growth. I don't know why this government is against science and innovation, but a budget that would reflect the importance of these things instead of gutting them would make more sense.

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?

Invest in innovation and new green industry. There isn't an economist who doesn't see this as important. If Canada were to become an innovator instead of a world destroyer it would attract new investment, employ many, many more people than the oil and prison sector, and make this country respectable again instead of an international pariah. If we could invest in infrastructure and have that infrastructure be beneficial for the future instead of sucking every valuable thing out of the ground for today's profit instead of tomorrow's future, we would be in much better shape and become competitive once again.

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?

One idea would be to invest in education and trades. Why don't we have money for this? because we continually bail out and give financial breaks to the friends of the Harper Government, especially oil companies. For the demographic issue, it is important that we rebuild pensions that were gutted by the irresponsible behaviour of banks. It is very important that our seniors not be victim to these criminals. Canada must work to insure that we don't put bankers and oil interests above our children, sick and elderly. We need programs to help with diet and exercise to help prevent a larger impact on our health system. This would mean investment in parks and public awareness of the benefits of exercise and diet.

And then you would need to sit down with doctors, nurses and care providers to LISTEN to them. That way, instead of inventing harmful policies based on irrational ideology, we can move forward in the best possible way. Listening to people who know things, and paying attention to scientists instead of muzzling them would probably help A LOT. As a start.

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?

I've said it before, I'll say it again. Look at green tech. Here. Try this. For 10 years take the money in royalty returns, tax incentives, and clean-up of oil and gas production and invest ALL OF IT in green tech and retrofitting of buildings and monitoring of the environment and green policy thinktanks. See what happens. I can tell you with certainty what will happen to our country and our environment if we continue on the present course. I have an entire world full of scientists and economists who can explain it to you. When will you listen?

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?

First Nations Scientists Refugees Charity Groups Manufacturing Sector These groups are being maliciously targeted or egregiously neglected by the Harper Government. The federal actions required are to stop targeting and neglecting them. And invest in green tech.