

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?

Canada is in a position that the U.S. and the Euro zone economies can only envy, because Canada does not have a crippling deficit. I think that Canada should find the wisdom to do the very things that political gridlock is preventing the governments of the U.S. and the E.U. from doing which is to invest in infrastructure and technology. Canada should seize the moment and exploit the low interest rate environment that is going to exist for the foreseeable future and borrow wisely to fund infrastructure expenditures that are linked to economic growth or technological improvement in the productive capacity of the Canadian worker. Right now Canada is the only highly industrialized Western nation to have a functioning government. This is Canada's biggest macro economic asset, please don't let it go to waste. This chance may never come again so don't miss the bus.

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?

Canada could promote greater energy efficiency by developing such things as "district heating". Canada also needs to concentrate its educational and work training efforts on improving the technology that is used in the production process. Canada also needs to decrease its energy consumption for goods produced. Canada needs to work on dropping the inter provincial barriers to trade and skill mobility. A national standard for skilled tradesmen should be established. This would enhance the mobility of skilled workers to go where their talents are in most demand for the highest pay.

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?

Increased concentration of technology in the work place and in the area of information technology. Canada should also aggressively be going to Europe and recruiting from the talented pool of unemployed that exists there.

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 believe that I have answered this question in my previous responses.

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?

Canada needs to find a way to help the non-english speaking segment of its immigrant population to integrate productively into the Canadian economy. A change must also be implemente with regards to the way that Canada's Native population participates in the Canadian economy. Right now the Native population is a consumer ot tax dollars and not a net contrubutor. This is even though the Native population is the fastest growing segment of Canada's population groups and the one whose demographic distribution is the youngest.