

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) STOP subsidizing fossil fuel and nuclear industry - START/INCREASE subsidies to sustainable alternative energy industry! b) STOP building jails - START funding social programs and deal with the PREVENTION of poverty and crime! c) STOP funding industry-led networks of excellence - RE-INSTATE the funding to ELA (Experimental Lakes Area) project and the other recently-hacked credible scientific research programs, including the scheme to 'rubber-stamp' tarsands and similar projects' environmental assessments!

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?

STOP forcing the Canadian manufacturing sector to move off-shore with industry-led so-called 'free trade schemes' - SUPPORT Canadian manufacturers/entrepreneurs; return the product quality and reputation of the "MADE IN CANADA" brand..... job creation would become a reality instead of a memory! As much as possible, I will continue (and encourage my friends)to boycott cheap, inferior foreign-produced items (a.k.a. "JUNK").

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?

Invest in educating our young people in the TRADES - many university graduates end up impoverished by student loans, working as dishwashers and/or unemployed. Ensure that every Canadian citizen has a fair living wage/income which would keep trades people and families in small communities. Instead, the young people flock to the boom or bust BIG GAS/OIL industry and bring their new trucks home to show the folks at home how well they're doing in Fort McMurray! No more community, no more family farm!

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?

Please refer to previous comments - they ALL apply.

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?

Again, please refer to ALL previous comments - they ALL apply here.