

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?

Tax the rich and make sure that polluters pay all costs incurred to make their profits. The poor and the middle class, which is buckling under the debt incurred by chasing the concept of the American Dream, cannot and must not pay for the waste created by corporations. Find innovative solutions to current problems (job creation) by ensuring that the entire population is involved (thus, all social classes and all levels of education) in implementing new alternatives to transition out of our consumer lifestyle. We must build on the forces of local resilience, rather than centralizing everything in cities, with the guidance of private enterprise. Maintain high-level and strong social services in order to ensure equitable health for the entire population. Today's atmosphere of austerity is currently depriving the majority of the population from benefitting from the natural resources offered by our environment and will certainly diminish the mental capacity to deal with all the challenges we must face at the community and international level.

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?

Protectionist measures must be put in place in order to encourage and promote local resilience and the enrichment of communities at the regional level before exporting raw materials. The government must ensure that services such as employment insurance and health insurance are provided and available to the greatest number of people possible who need these services in difficult economic times. Eliminate GST on basic needs so that families no longer have to pay for tax cuts to big business and can shoulder the higher cost of daily living.

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?

Good question. I wonder how we can deal with the exodus of young people, the rural exodus and the brain drain??? Encourage small communities to become self-sufficient by tempering government forces that influence the rural exodus. Pressures that the Conservatives intend to create in the employment insurance system actually work against the needs of areas located far from major centres by forcing people to take jobs that are far from their homes and families. By slashing spending and making more cuts to health services, the current government is not helping people deal with the economic challenges. This government believes that people can continue to cope in this economy and these difficult times. I believe that measures implemented in recent years have resulted in additional challenges that our entire Canadian culture is presently facing. If we want to change our present course, we must simply change the principles and the values that dictate the decisions made by the majority of elected

representatives today!

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?

Protectionism ensures that Canada's productivity is integrated into our economy: from raw materials to their processing and to their sale as a final product. That would be a first step towards solving the problems created by the ideology of globalization! A good measure of productivity is when all segments of society can participate in creating productivity!!! Therefore, create jobs in all areas. Artists, musicians, social and community workers, environmentalists, not just fishers have a hard time holding onto their jobs. This has been the case especially in the past few years. But, before that, there were all types of workers in the textile and other industries that had to move after NAFTA, etc. When will we find solutions by addressing the root cause of the problems? In order to produce, Canadians must be happy, and feel accomplished and productive. This is all interrelated. For Canada to do well, make sure that your citizens are doing well.

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?

Give back the right to work and to live with our differences! No matter how different communities are, they need help surviving on their own terms. Austerity and governance measures and the power of the government over the people diminish the ability of all individuals to get back on their feet on their own terms and under their own steam. Ensuring that the federal government does not pass on costs to the provincial or municipal governments is something else to which the federal government should be committed!