

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

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Responses
1. Economic Recovery and Growth
<i>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>
- Jobs incentives similar to the Canada Action Plan (infrastructure spending, small business subsidies) - Incentives to industry, especially in struggling regions - Development of new resource extraction regions (Plan Nord, Arctic, Canadian Shield) - Renewed investment in science and technology, R&D
2. Job Creation
<i>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?</i>
- Offering of low-interest loans to select industries - Policies to ensure low/stable Canadian dollar to support Central Canadian manufacturing base. - Youth jobs initiative - Job subsidies to small business
3. Demographic Change
<i>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?</i>
- Work sponsorship programs (immigration) for skills shortages - Encourage college enrollment to increased number of skilled workers - Retraining incentives for unemployed workers
4. Productivity
<i>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>
- R&D subsidies - Factory retrofit incentives - Lowering of agriculture tariff barriers tied to encouragement of secondary food processing industries (eg. yogurt manufacturing from less expensive milk)
5. Other Challenges
<i>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?</i>
- East coast - slow down EI reforms for seasonal employees - North - encourage college enrollment, subsidize local college campuses (ie. small community campuses in Yukon College, NAC system) - Cities - retraining initiatives