

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 focus on developing the green economy through R&D on sustainable energy sources, and through upgrades/retrofitting of Canada's existing housing stock/buildings.

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?

Development of sustainable, long-term, progressive industry that prepares Canadians to transition to a carbon neutral future.

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?

University and College should be free and supported as the important public institutions that they are. The federal government should be focusing on reducing barriers to sustainable living and promoting healthy communities to ensure a healthier aging population, as well as greater opportunities for younger citizens to lead healthier lives as they age. Decision making should be based on peer-reviewed scientific research, and funding for this research should be expanded, not cut as has been the recent experience.

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?

We need to rethink our position in the global marketplace, as well as nationally. We need to focus on long-term competitiveness - what do we need as a country to remain resilient in a changing climate? We should not be focusing on selling off and developing all of our remaining resources as fast as we can, because that leaves us with no sustainable solution for the next generation. The Federal government needs to invest in clean technology and alternative energy, protect our water and other natural resources, and promote active and healthy lifestyles across Canada.

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?

Our biggest challenge as Canadians at this point in time is a Federal government that is operating on ideology and in the corporate interest, instead of one using science, research, and a long-term vision for building a safe, sustainable national economy.