

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?

More resources and attention paid to renewable energy development and innovation. More resource toward public media and our public broadcaster, the CBC. Nationalization of our energy and telecommunication sectors. Forgiveness of student debt. More taxes place upon to the top income earners. Tax put on corporate financial taxes (Tobin tax) are rerouted to social programs.

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?

Large scale, national strategy to move toward renewable energy. Think Roosevelt's New Deal.

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?

Active and inclusive labour market policies aimed at young people and older workers must be drawn up in close cooperation with the social partners. This requires defining a better policy to cover the entire duration of a career, which in turn is closely related to life-long training. This is as much a matter of active and 'attractive' policies for young people in the labour market as of policies enabling older workers to opt for a gradual and active end to their careers. Moreover, to promote youth employment, regional mobility must be made easier and obstacles to professional and geographical mobility must be removed.

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?

- measures allowing for a combination of retirement and employment; - more innovative work organisation and human resource management policies; - reconciliation of work and family life, relevant in all age groups; - working conditions, health and safety, including defining and taking account of the arduous nature of work; - training - initial or life-long training; - the promotion of a culture of forward-looking age management within companies both in terms of young people entering or older people leaving the labour market; - equal pay, action needs to be taken proactively, not reactively; Also, see www.genwhymedia.ca

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?

