

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 on carbon is needed. Evaluate the cost of natural resources exploitation to force companies to pay fair retribution (royalties) which consider the sustainable development (SD) of our country and of each province. Invest in environmental solutions to place canadian business in a lead position when it comes to SD. Also ensure we are pioneers in the technologies and strategies that are environmentally responsible to enable our economy to export and sell outside Canada our knowledge, products and methods to make the whole world a better place for us and future generations. Canada MUST become a leader in SD and build on this as a way to strengthen it's economy.

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?

Invest in sustainable development. Strengthen our economy by getting rid of the third part financing of the canadian debt at rate higher than what we actually loan to large commercial banks via the Bank of Canada. Government should borrow straight from the BoC at preferred rate to reduce the fees and weight of debt on canadian citizens' shoulders. Work towards a slightly lower value of canadian dollar compared to US dollar to give a chance to manufacturing industry to grow back and re-create the jobs lost because of the too-strong canadian dollar (compared to USD) over the past few years caused by Alberta tar sands. One province's economy is killing the rest of the country. Time for a change, time for balance!

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?

4 Paid days off-work (financed by government) for each individual per year to improve his skills through continuous training and courses (32 hours per year). 4 days work week to make room for training and sharing of knowledge and transition between younger and older generations of workers. Better financing of elementary and high school levels to raise the diplomas rates. Better information for kids and unemployed citizens about careers with good employment rates and salaries. Programs to encourage training with industry to share time between school and work and ensure better understanding and integration of concepts and skills by students to enable them to become more efficient, talented and qualified workers.

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?

4 days work week across Canada and higher salaries. Canadian industries need stability if they want to grow. 4 days work week will ensure a better life quality for workers, hence help them perform better at work and put more pressure on them keeping their jobs. 3 days week-end will mean more spendings, turning out as better economics vitality. Skilled workers with a higher sense of ethics, responsibility, honor, loyalty, duty and pride to make our workers stay longer with the same company. Canadian citizens became disabused by their jobs over past few years. We need to stop the frequent job jumping now commonly seen in many companies where workers come and go only for salaries and opportunities. Again, it's about stability for companies and they can't grow if they are constantly training new employees to replace the ones who left them.

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?

Focus should be on individuals. Always! When the government helps the citizens, it helps the community and the companies at the same time. It starts with the people! People need information about challenges to come and transparency from the government. Educate your people to help them help their country. The better example is to advertise and sponsor physical activity and healthy diet as it cost less in the long run than health problems caused lack of exercise or by junk food, high cholesterol food, rich in salt food, high sugar drinks, etc.