

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?

Cutbacks to the Canadian Armed Forces. Weapons, equipment, advertising,... Restructure ministers and members of Parliament's expenditures- ... before cutting into social service, the people who govern and manage our budgets should perhaps be prepared to do their part as well. A \$16 glass of orange juice???? Increase taxation on multi-national corporations and big business before carving into public assets. Continue to invest in arts and culture, as this is what showcases a people abroad, what draws tourists. Establish a "pollution tax" for dirty industries and create an ecology fund that could also serve to fund public services. Masters of our own house!

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?

Develop new markets, be leaders in green energy, invest in scientific research and development in order to be the first to discover new remedies, new cures. We must stop trying to save outdated businesses and concepts such as fossil fuels (dirty and environmentally harmful). The debt that inappropriate oil exploration will leave future generations will be unrecoverable... The auto industry. Although it is the source of many jobs, this industry is no longer viable. We put millions of dollars annually into saving this polluting industry. We could take the same money and invest it in electric vehicles instead. Patented designs exist in Quebec and certainly elsewhere in Canada, so why not tap into this and breath new life into the auto industry.

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?

Immigration! But not at any price. We must take the people who arrive in our country in hand. It is critical that they learn our official languages, mores and laws. Reinvest in programs such as the former C.O.F.I. [Centre d'orientation et de formation pour les immigrants]. That way we would have stronger, more employable immigrants because currently, they are left on their own and have precarious and illegal jobs because they cannot function in the official languages. More readily recognize foreign credentials. It is not normal that an Algerian electrician finds himself working as a dishwasher in Canada because he is denied his right to be a licenced tradesman. Exams, perhaps? Refreshment training? Rapid and payable by the person in question! In this way we would, once again, find ourselves with immigrants who have quality jobs and who will not be a burden on the state.

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?

Develop new markets and become international models: green energy, health research, scientific research, arts and culture (Broadway and Hollywood are high productivity, profit-making machines, and that is CULTURE!!!)

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?

Low-income families and aboriginal communities. It is difficult to financially maintain a household; there is poor nutrition, a lack of education and therefore it is difficult to get out of such a situation. We must invest in education. It must be more accessible; the disadvantaged should be able to study to the full potential of their intelligence, not based on their ability to pay. We would thereby create more professionals in all fields and would deal with labour shortages. Arts and culture industries. It is a proven fact that what attracts tourists to visit and discover one country rather than another is its cultural richness. In order to do so, arts and culture must be promoted abroad. We will not showcase our culture by cutting cultural attaché positions in our embassies in Berlin and Paris. To me Canadian culture has nothing to do with the military culture that your government is putting front and center. You are helping to the destroy the image of a peaceful and prosperous Canada.