

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?

-Investment in green jobs, renewable energy technologies and feasibility studies, -Investment in healthy communities and a healthy workforce through investing in public services, public healthcare, national child care, community arts programs, community recreation 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?

-Investment in green jobs -Investment in renewable energy technologies -National Energy Plan that focuses on renewable energy first and foremost -stop subsidization of fossil fuel industries, end tax breaks for fossil fuel industry -Federal carbon tax or other form of carbon pricing to force our industries to become internationally competitive in terms of lowering GHG emissions and sustainable development standards

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?

-There is NO need to raise the age of eligibility for Old Age Security -What skills shortages?? -We have enough public resources to take care of an aging population - public health care and OAS should be strengthened, not weakened. -The economy should be diversified and local economies of scale should be encouraged - we need to stop forcing mega-projects and mega-industries down people's throats and forcing them into jobs they do not want, in industries that are not good for their local communities and environment.

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?

-Let people develop careers based on their own skills and interests, that respond to the demand for their skills in their local communities. -Stop forcing people to take jobs in mega-industries that require them to move out of their communities or commute huge distances. -Local community economic development

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?

-Aboriginal communities are facing major challenges -Poor and middle class are getting poorer -Federal government needs to respect Aboriginal rights and the intent and spirit of land claims -Settle outstanding land claims by changing your negotiating positions and accepting unique needs and visions expressed by different regions -Let Aboriginal governments and co-management boards have true self-government, stop interfering and trying to control everything from Ottawa (eg. making political appointments to co-management boards, unilaterally changing MVRMA, forcing mega-projects to go ahead if communities say no)