

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?

Put the focus on renewing small communities, providing jobs, housing and the environment. Become 'people focused' rather than just 'business focused'.

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?

Return federal government jobs. The cuts to these jobs have significantly impacted small communities such as mine. When you cut these jobs, all the local businesses loose. Job creation should be sustainable and come with benefits. Not the low-level marginalized jobs, but real jobs. I still cannot understand why you picked on the civil service (environment related). These were sustainable jobs. Stop padding the banks. Or subsidizing big industry and banks. Stop building pipelines with companies (Enbridge) that have poor records. Return Canada to a respectable economic presence (high quality of life, education, environment).

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?

Have older Canadians partner with younger Canadians in the workforce. Mentor younger Canadians. Encourage partnerships. Create more environment jobs (eg. gardening) and share expertise and salaries with younger Canadians. Many jobs do not offer benefits like retirement pensions, so older Canadians are forced to work. Make sure jobs offer enough salary dollars and benefits so that people can retire. Young people cannot move into jobs if older people have no choice but to continue working. Then stop laying off people from the civil service. Offer cheaper education so that people can access life long learning opportunities. Allow for job sharing.

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?

Implement green technologies, research and innovation. Allow for job sharing.

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?

One challenge is in small communities. 80% of Canadians live in large cities. Get people back to rural areas and help sustain rural businesses. For example, my community does not have a grocery store and all 600 people living here, must travel over two hours to obtain groceries. Start creating industries that deal with green technologies and innovation. Restore Canada to a leader in environment. No short cuts..no fast dirty oil. Encourage people to live in Canada's north. Look at different job arrangements. In Europe people have time off to enjoy leisure and family. And people are employed (e.g. Norway). Consider following suit. Do not follow the US example. Keep strong regulations on banks and industry.