

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 emphasis on green infrastructure. Continued investment in oil and tar sands does not place us at a future economic competitive advantage - we need to be out developing technologies for the future. It also perpetrates dutch disease, causing more unemployment. Weakened environmental protection and oil spills along BC's coast will also decrease jobs in fisheries and tourism. More emphasis on local solutions and sustainability. Again, we need to look long term. Climate change is a reality. Food and water supplies need to be properly managed so that they will be there for us in the future. Stop these trade deals that are only proven to take away jobs from Canadian people, and invest in our communities.

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?

More support for small businesses. No tax credits or breaks for companies without them proving they are creating jobs. We have the lowest corporate tax rate we've had in decades, and the highest unemployment. Lowering corporate taxes does not seem to be an effective solution. Corporations need to be held accountable to creating jobs if we are going to give them a lower tax rate. Also as mentioned before, investing in a green economy will create jobs at the same time as updating our infrastructure to be better positioned for the future, and making sure we have the skills and technologies that are in demand globally as the world shifts away from fossil fuels.

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?

unemployment is at an all time high, especially for students. maybe we need better information on where the skill shortages are and subsidized training to help people move into these fields. If there is already subsidized training, it needs to be marketed better so that people are aware of it. as for aging population, we need to make sure that we have a health care system in place that can take care of people in their homes where costs are cheaper, rather than sitting in acute facility beds taking up space and tax dollars unnecessarily.

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?

increase productivity? we have an unemployment crisis. as in the question before, if there's a productivity issue than we need more resources to help match people with available jobs.

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?

Our biggest challenge as a human race is mitigating and coping with climate change. At the end of the day, if we don't do this, it doesn't matter if you are left or right wing, unemployed or in the 1%. This current government keeps making economic decisions at the expense of the environment. It fails to realize that without a healthy environment, there IS no economy. The federal government needs to stop pandering to the interests of corporations, specifically big oil, get with the program, and start looking out for the future of Canadians. Stop the environmental cuts, stop placing ideology above facts, or it's game over for the human race.