

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?

Stop off-loading the economic crisis of a dying system onto the working people of Canada. Immediate resignation of the Conservative Government.

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?

Stop using tax-payers money to support U.S. sponsored wars of aggression and increase the amount of subsidies to the provinces for job creation.

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?

Many of the so-called "consequences" are the result of systemic poverty that could be alleviated with a national prescription drug plan, the Federal Government paying its full share of Medicare (50/50). Adequate housing is the first principle of the social determinants of good health, therefore a national housing strategy should be top priority. Poverty is often worse for those between the ages of 55 - 65 who are suffering most from the down-sizing of the economy. If OAS and GIS were available to them they would be healthier and able to be re-trained to fill the skill-needs of a changing society. The money saved at the back-end in the present deteriorating health-care costs would more than cover the costs of increased OAS, etc. The "challenges" associated with aging are a scare tactic to be used as an excuse to cut-back on social welfare of all Canadian working people. A healthy, prosperous community will live longer and contribute their accumulated skill for the betterment of all. Aging is not an affliction.

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?

This seems to really be the same issue as the previous question. All Canadians should be guaranteed a legislated 'Living Wage' that would put an end to poverty and induce the entire country to work together as a team to create a community that is worthy of having some of the richest resources in the world. These resources at the moment unfortunately are not benefitting Canadians but are increasing the wealth of those who least need it.

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?

It is obvious, as we have known for a very long time that Capitalism is not a functional and efficient system of production. It is time for all sectors of society to sit down together and define the needs of the future with the idea of creating a new system of production that will more equitably distribute the resources and wealth of the world without having to go to war over them.