

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Genevieve Pelletier

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?

The cultural economy is always an asset for a strong economy. Moreover, it helps a people who want to be influential internationally while benefitting both individuals and society at all levels.

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?

Small- and medium-sized businesses are disappearing, but they are essential for a society's economy. They are the biggest employers in the country, and the government should continue to support them. Employers in the culture sector are also major contributors to the economy, but also a necessary counterbalance to individual responsibility and economic self-reliance. People become creative beings who contribute to society as a whole.

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?

A very good question. I believe that aging should be at the top of our agenda as a society. We need a structure that embraces all the stages in life and brings them together rather than keeping them apart. The labour shortage is partly the result of the elitist approach to a society that prizes university education. People should be aware of the benefits of a self-sufficient society that does not value one occupation more than another.

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?

I believe the issue is not productivity but instead the need for innovation. By being at the cutting edge of many sectors, by creating and by encouraging a prosperous country, we will want to be productive. Productivity is only an outcome—it requires a much more holistic approach.

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?

Anyone who is targeted as being inferior to someone else or another society will experience problems. This is the perception of Aboriginal people, immigrants and minorities, among others. Everyone should have the right to equality. No group is more deserving than another. Everyone, with their different experiences and different lives, should feel like their country offers them the same opportunities as the next person.