

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?

This global recession bordering on depression is not a time for austerity but for wise, prudent spending - infrastructure, healthcare, education, community municipal investment. It is smart to create jobs and other ripple economic benefits. The short-term spending and debt bring long-term gains for communities and Canadians

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?

Make some sustainable development decisions that take in this and future generations. We need to own and manage our natural resources including oil sands and minerals better, rather than always selling as much as possible to highest foreign bidder. The Chinese grab of the oil sands should be checked. We need a smarter skills development strategy that is years ahead of such natural resources booms as occurring now in mining sector, including an Aboriginal partnership that makes their members qualified now for mining jobs in years to come. Pay attention to local, regional economic development that goes beyond the one year, myopic and too often partisan spending of our agencies. Encourage cooperatives, microloans, food security

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?

Twin the senior and youth generations in mentoring, skills development and community service initiatives. Seniors have much wisdom and experience to pass on and should be paid in programs that link these generations. Make Aboriginal skills programs a priority. Make funding and policy go beyond the one year and four year election cycles. Restore Katimavik and have it specifically linked to senior twinned programs

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?

Poverty elimination strategy puts more people into economy, more coin in pockets for local spending, and reduces huge 90 billion plus poverty bill in our country. Reject this trickle down or ripple out economics that simply does not happen with enough people not even in boats for them to rise or benefit. Invest in education and keeping students in school

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?

The inequality in our communities and between Canadians present enormous economic and social challenges that must be addressed. Everyone should be have equal opportunity. A job alone is not a solution -- it has to be a fair wage with decent benefits Translate the good federal apology to our Aboriginal population into solid, economic assistance -- education, healthcare, water, skills training