

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?

Spending is the engine that drives the economy, but we also need a balance between spending and over-spending (leading to mounting personal debt). Putting funds into the hands of those who need it most - the lower income layer of our society - will enable these individuals to more easily purchase those items which both provide necessities for living, while at the same time supporting industries that provide these items. We should not be providing subsidies to industries that make billions in profits each year and pay out dividends to those who already have enough money to invest in these companies. The "trickle-down" theory of economics was discredited years ago. The rich will always be able to take care of themselves; the poor need our help.

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?

As per my previous answer, increased spending will create jobs. Also, do NOT pursue further free trade deals; these only encourage industries to move jobs elsewhere.

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?

Increase funding for post-secondary education, especially community colleges.

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 don't feel we have a problem with productivity and competitiveness. We are as good as any other country in this regard.

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?

I feel the federal government has it's priorities reversed; stop spending billions where they're not needed: prisons, new jets, oil industry subsidies, fighting wars, hosting international conferences and sporting events. Stop cutting back on areas that define us: the environment, our cultural institutions (the CBC, in particular), our proud peace-keeping heritage, our international compassion.