

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?

It is not only urgent but imperative that the BC government allow tax cuts to the film industry. Without these tax benefits production moves to other centers losing the city the millions of spin off dollars spent in businesses that serve this industry and will tragically result in losing Canada's top talent. The infrastructure of studios and locations is already in place. It's a no brainer to bring back tax cuts that will revitalize an industry that was recently dealt a death blow by government shortsightedness.

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?

Bring back the Trudeau era. His programs work to create jobs and to create a national identity.

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?

There is a skills shortage because the education system is just plain bad. Schools are turning out graduates that cannot put thoughts on paper. I know because I see students in my line of work and the vocabulary is that of a sixth grader and their world knowledge is appalling. But that is a whole other issue.

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?

Perhaps a mentorship/apprenticeship program whereby jobs transition from incoming to outgoing. Cost shared programs of child care on job sites. Also older workers may wish to job share more without losing their benefit status. This will allow a younger workforce to emerge and older workers to retire slowly. I know so many people in their late fifties early sixties that hang in, likely doing a less than optimal job, just to get their full pensions.

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?

Affordable rental housing costs must be addressed for the middle class and the poor right across the country. We can only be productive if our population has a sense that they can get ahead. It will lessen crime and illness, guaranteed. Last two words from me is: FLAT TAX. If you keep it simple and fair the government will find coffers topping up. Simple - the over \$100,000 a year people pay big. Those that don't or can't pay should be set up in community service programs. They might just get minimum wage in their pockets but an invaluable sense of contributing. So many people feel hopeless. And indeed are without a leg up.