

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?

Small and local business have proven to be able to survive and be flexible. They support local communities and can employ a variety of people. The government should provide support for these businesses to keep their employees and provide opportunities to more. The government should also provide support to these business to increase their productivity and ensure an economic well being at the local level. Green businesses have also proven to be very viable. They produce new products and provide new skills and training for people

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?

Investing in green business, and investing in small and local business would provide some relief of relying on US or foreign state of economy. The federal and provincial governments should also look at facilitating trade and exchanges across provinces - could be harmonizing standards in qualifications of workers or provincial tariffs, etc. (eg. meat products that meet provincial standards cannot be sold in other provinces without a stamp of approval from federal regulations - this is an added cost and burden - particularly on small producers) In areas near provincial borders it could provide a better market for some products. Canada should also look at supporting not only the export of raw products, but also the creation and markets of transformed products from these raw resources that we have here!

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 are 2 aspects to this - there should be an easier way for aging Canadians to stay in their home as long as possible, whether it is providing better and accessible financial support for home care or for families wishing to provide that care. Skills shortage - New Canadians with the professional skills and education need a better support to get their education and skills recognized so they can enter their field of work faster (not have to keep driving taxis!)

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?

Productivity does not need to focus on the same type of products that Canada has built its economy in the last 100 years (exports of raw nature products and automotive industry, etc.) Providing support to new type of products and economies such as green economies, supporting production of final products

in Canada can provide Canada a new source of economy, skills and productivity that will make it more competitive. It will also help Canada protect its natural resources and biodiversity which in the long-term will provide a healthier and more viable environment that will attract an international and local tourism industry again!

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?

Individual in more remote communities are facing issues of low diversity of economic base. This does not help retain people in the communities and does not help maintain a sense of community which in the end can ensure a viable and healthy community. Providing federal support to diversify these economies by supporting local and small businesses will have an impact on the viability of these communities. Large communities (CMA's) need a better public transportation system to ease pressure on the infrastructure. At the same time, the various communities within these large CMA's could be diversified so that individuals could live, work and play within a small area (so they don't spend as much time travelling and don't need to rely on autos, etc.) This will be again by investing in smaller local businesses and supporting a creative municipal planning process.