

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?

Gradually abandon the devastating use of polluting fossil fuels. Invest heavily in the development of green, renewable technologies and energy, which are the industries of the future and have the potential to create many jobs. To that end, provide incentives for scientific research and development programs. Maintain existing social programs; stop cutting them. Encourage cultural production and distribution in Canada and abroad. Focus on a real economy, one closer to the people, rather than the economy based on the exploitation of finite natural resources and stock market speculation.

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?

Focus on industries of the future that will make Canada competitive abroad through the development of leading edge technologies to develop sustainable and renewable energy. We should invest heavily, for example, in research and development of solar energy, alternatives to oil for transportation, state-of-the-art urban and interurban transportation (trams, trains), electric cars. Promote local cultural industries. Facilitate access to post-secondary education for all students in order to create an educated, competent and internationally competitive workforce.

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?

Support immigration of people who could be employed in areas that have the greatest labour needs. Help young graduates enter the workforce. Why does the previous question concern the need for job creation and this one the labour shortage? Growth is not infinite; there may be weaknesses in this economic system.

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?

Green, renewable energy. Greater collaboration with industries carrying out scientific research in order to improve production techniques. Use of more in-depth statistics and social research in order to better target and manage economic development based on social realities. Tighten and ensure compliance with environmental and health standards on the advice of reliable and independent scientific authorities in order to ensure the long-term productivity and well-being of Canadians.

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?

An organization facing challenges? Wapikoni mobile. If the Conservative government—which is completely obsessed with economic, productivity and job creation issues (just like this questionnaire, which focuses solely on those issues), to the point of ignoring many social cultural, environmental, scientific, diplomatic and health issues—showed a little good will and looked at the reality of Canadians from more than just the economic perspective, many individuals, businesses and communities would be better off. Perhaps Wapikoni did not give aboriginal youth the skills to directly improve their employability and economic contribution, but it gave them the tools to escape drug use, alcoholism and violence, and to become contributing members of their communities and better citizens. The same can be said for a number of cultural organizations that do not provide a direct economic return, but contribute immensely to quality of life, well-being, critical thinking and the education of all Canadians. Not to mention the extreme importance of protecting the environment and tightening standards for natural resource use and industrial operations in order to preserve water, air and soil quality and the health of living beings for generations to come, based on the research of our highly skilled scientists. STOP Harper.