

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?

Increase the royalties on natural resource development for the primary sector. Encourage resource processing in Canada. Increase financial resources allocated to education and ongoing training to increase productivity. Increase funding for basic research to help the high-tech industry grow and stimulate long-term economic development. Subsidize SMEs for buying productive equipment, but reduce subsidies for multinationals and banks that do not generate any local benefits.

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?

Natural resources should be processed in Canada instead of being cheaply exported in bulk. Development of the secondary sector produces considerable wealth. Mining royalties should represent a percentage of the ore extracted.

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?

Reintegration program for seniors who can contribute to society. Assistance program for young families (good-quality, free day care service). Legalization of assisted suicide. Easier access to contraception and abortions.

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?

Fund education. Fund workplace training programs. Fund equipment purchases by SMEs. Fund research by businesses and basic research.

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?

Pure research scientists, whose work is at the root of new technology development, lack necessary funding when their research is not shown to have a direct commercial application. However, it is critical to understand a phenomenon before it can be applied. Stop making cuts to research.