

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?

1. Keep Canadians communicating with each other; reverse the cuts to the CBC. We lose our sense of unity as a country without access to the diversity of programming presented by our public broadcaster.
2. Spend less on the military and the pandas and the orange juice, and more on social programs and the Arts.

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?

Look to Iceland's example for inspiration on overhauling the economic system.

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?

Federal incentives for home care companies to expand, train and recruit geriatric care workers. And then more palliative care homes. The skills shortage exists because employers are reluctant to hire apprentices. But there's plenty of them out there looking for work. Awareness and incentives for employers is necessary.

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?

Support entrepreneurs! Tax breaks for locally owned and operated businesses. Start-up grants and public awareness campaigns.

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?

Seniors need increased affordable access to home care. This has to be a priority before senior's housing, although that too is needed. Seniors in their own homes are happier and healthier, and thus less of a drain on the already overburdened "old age homes" as well as the healthcare system. Entrepreneurs need start-up grants and public awareness campaigns to generate a groundswell of support for local

products. Our environment needs to be revered for its integrity to the Canadian psyche. It is our parks and protected spaces that are world-renowned that we should be expanding upon from a tourist perspective, not exploiting for resources. We have the "green space", we should be a leader in green technologies. A strategic plan should be undertaken to address the living conditions on native reserves. There should not be a demographic divide between native and non-native people's access to education, health care, and affordable food.