

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Town of Blackfalds

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?

Investment in Infrastructure Mayor Melodie Stol presented Council information about a series of regional roundtables to collect municipal input for the Federal Government's initiative to develop a new long-term infrastructure plan and recommended that Council accept the proposed resolution as outlined. RES.568/12 Councillor Simpson moved that accept the proposed resolution as outlined: RESOLUTION Development of a new long-term federal plan for municipal infrastructure funding WHEREAS, The Building Canada Plan and a number of important federal-provincial transfer agreements vital to Canada's cities and communities, will expire in March 2014; WHEREAS, Federal investments over the last few years have helped to slow the decline of our cities and communities, and the Government of Canada has committed to develop a new long-term plan for municipal infrastructure funding in consultation with municipal and provincial/territorial governments; WHEREAS, a seamless transition from the Building Canada Plan to a new long term plan is necessary to ensure that municipalities can continue planning their capital spending effectively; WHEREAS, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a campaign to ensure the new plan reflects municipal priorities across the country and asks its member municipalities to pass a Council resolution supporting the campaign; AND WHEREAS, our community has continuing infrastructure needs, such as the East Storm Water Trunk Outfall, Wastewater Treatment Facility and Recreation Facility (Blackfalds Field House), that can only be met with through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by a national plan; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council endorses the FCM campaign and urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to work with FCM to ensure the new long-term infrastructure plan meets the core infrastructure needs of cities and communities; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council urges the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to ensure that the new long-term plan is fully in place when existing programs expire in 2014; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, to Doug Griffiths Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs, to Blaine Calkins Member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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?

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?

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?

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?