

Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

Pre-budget consultations 2012

Village of Sicamous

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?

The Trans Canada Highway must be a full four lanes between Salmon Arm and Golden to provide safe, secure and dependable access for the public and commercial trade with Pacific Ports. Commerce will benefit from assured safe access, while reducing the cost in lives and serious injuries from the annual carnage on this stretch of highway which will provide savings to society.

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?

A firm commitment by both the federal and provincial governments will stimulate jobs in construction and ongoing transportation to the Pacific. Increased safety and assured availability will stimulate job creation in the recreation and tourism sectors and decrease costs associated with the annual carnage on this section of highway. Assured safe access will stimulate commerce locally, regionally, and nationally with the Pacific Rim.

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?

Encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles, access to efficient medical and service facilities and encouraging longer sustained living in rural communities will benefit these communities while providing lifestyle opportunities for an aging population. Improvements to the TCH will encourage commerce and tourism with resultant increases in revenue and taxation, for the Columbia Shuswap and Okanagan regions.

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?

A firm commitment to improving the TCH to a full four lanes from Alberta to the Pacific Coast will provide safe, assured access for commercial and tourism business with the Pacific Rim. Improved highways will address the experienced delays that often close the TCH for extended periods for avalanche control, or accident removal from the roadway. These delays adversely affect commerce and public travel.

Highway improvements will also provide opportunities with expanding tourism in the Columbia Shuswap area.

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?

The Trans Canada Highway was completed in 1962 and has served the country well. However increased traffic, deteriorating roads and an inability to manage the highway with assured access is now a major problem for the communities of Golden, Revelstoke, Sicamous and Salmon Arm. Trans provincial and international trade, and local tourism and commerce are significantly hindered by the delays and lack of assured access on the TCH. Public safety is now a major concern with an average of 7 deaths and 125 significant injuries occurring along the stretch of road 100 kms on either side of Revelstoke annually. We respectfully request the opportunity to present to the Budget Advisory Panel concerning this significant issue.