

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. Try to keep interest rates at current or near-current levels but not at the expense of inflation 2. Encourage R&D by whatever means possible including directed grants and tax benefits 3. A serious of and enhancement of the 3 major transportation corridors across Western Canada; Highways 1, 3 and 16

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?

I fully agree with what I understand are the latest proposals for employment insurance. EI should be a safety net and not a continually ongoing right. Having said that, I firmly believe that Canada is seriously lacking in appropriate programs for apprenticeships and assistance programs for persons who wish to re-locate (i.e.. establish full residency) to areas where they have found (or will find) employment.

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?

First, you need to encourage part-time work for aging Canadians. I personally would not be retired if I could have had the option of working part-time. All sorts of roadblocks are thrown-up to part-time professionals such as being required to work for a few hours every day rather than a few days every week, decreased benefits with no option to buy into full-time benefits, and last but not least, a corporate(private or public sector) attitude that demeans the status of a part-time professional.

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?

It's simple. Do more end-product processing within Canada. We should be shipping a minimum of our raw materials outside of 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?

Refer to #4 comments. Secondary processing means jobs and many of them are well-paid.

