

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 2:59 PM
To: Engages-Mobilisation (WD/DEO) <wd.engages-mobilisation.deo@canada.ca>
Subject: Western Canada Growth Strategy Feedback

Greetings,

Thanks for considering public input in this important topic. Please see feedback below:

What does a stronger western Canadian economy look like 10 years from now?

Diverse, with less emphasis on raw resource extraction and sales – more emphasis on value added and knowledge services

What are the best ways to spur new growth in western Canada?

Depending on how you look at it, action to mitigate climate change effects is either an economic opportunity or a necessity (or both). Electrification of everything from home heating to transport will be required not just here but around the globe to address the climate change issue and we should be looking at participating fully in this.

We in the west have an abundance of clean energy resources and while some provinces like BC generate most of their electricity with clean sources like hydropower, western Canada is the perfect practice ground for developing new clean energy technologies, such as marine renewable (tidal, wave), and developing knowledge in rapidly expanding energy fields such as geothermal and offshore wind.

Feed-in tariffs should be made available for a limited number of grid-connected clean energy demonstration projects, to help us learn and become experts (there is at least one BC survey that suggests people would be willing to support feed-in tariffs to develop new clean energy technologies if it only affected their electricity bills by a percent or two). The Innovative Clean Energy Fund of BC should also be leveraged in parallel with Western Diversification programs to support these important industry development initiatives.

Along with the above, continue to support programs and policies that promote electrification.

What will help the Indigenous economy continue to grow?

First Nations are huge proponents of clean energy/technology – so anything that encourages their participating in the above mentioned directions will help. Also, they seem to enjoy sharing their “brand” with the world as they gain their voice again – so opportunities to promote their culture in ways that provide economic benefits e.g. ecotourism may be a good option.

How can we improve economic participation in the west of underrepresented groups, including women, youth and new immigrants?

Empowerment, including education, is key. Our schools should consider developing entrepreneurial minds instead of the old Canadian extract and sell raw resources mentality. Our schools should also be

showing students examples of underrepresented groups active in the new economy, doing what feels natural to them and not just what was traditionally accepted.

For youth, ironically, the higher we make the minimum wage, the less likely it is for businesses to hire youth. So what we need to do is to create enough living wage jobs to employ adults who need to support themselves and/or families as well as allow some employers (generally unskilled jobs like fast food) to hire youth (who live at home and don't require a living wage) at less than minimum wage. These youth could be required to produce verification that they are supported by their parents or guardians in order to be eligible for these youth jobs.

I'm not convinced new immigrants need much encouragement or support in participating economically. From what I've seen, they are much more inclined than natural born Canadians to be entrepreneurial, energetic and oriented to business.

How can governments, industry and western Canadians work together to grow the regional economy?

Leverage the climate change opportunity as a catalyst for local regional economic growth and global regional economic growth. For example, by promoting electrification in Canada, we will be promoting new businesses to serve that market and the development of world class skills, which we can then share around the globe. The focus needs to shift away from resource extraction megaprojects, to a smaller but more consistent labour market comprised of jobs that contribute to the wellness of our children and the planet.

Regards,

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