

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Adam Carroll

### 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?*

I don't think austerity is necessarily the wise solution. I think the solution would be further stimulus in infrastructure. Not only will that create jobs immediately through the administration and construction, but also in the long term as their would be more opportunity created.

#### 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?*

If companies continue to offshore jobs because it's cheaper, our government needs to make it cheaper and easier for companies to operate. This doesn't mean giving them easy tax cuts, but one of the biggest issues is the Dutch Disease caused by a booming oil sector. Our dollar is up. We need to drive it down by increasing royalty taxes on the oil sector. Once our dollar is down, it'll be cheaper for manufacturing companies to invest in Canada.

#### 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?*

Invest more in healthcare, instead of less. Broker a progressive deal with the provinces in order to ensure a genuine shift in health care administration. Considering nearly 25% of the senior population is in poverty, we shouldn't be cutting their benefits either.

#### 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?*

As I said before, offset the high dollar caused by the oil sector.

#### 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?*

I think, as always in history, it is individuals who are having the most real trouble. Particularly, low-income families. And, really, your average Canadian. Wages have been stagnating and declining for 30 years while the richest Canadians have their income increase exponentially. Factoring in inflation, this is a defacto wage decrease for Canadians making life harder to live. Life needs to be made more

affordable for everyone, and that'll require action from the government. Redistribute wealth.