

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Marc Charette

### 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 believe that we must not lose sight of the fact that massive cuts will not help create a strong and growing country. I believe that we must continue to invest in culture because it contributes to the vitality of a country. We must also continue to invest in environmental protection because we must have more than just a short-term vision and we must stop believing that economic recovery can take place at the expense of the environment.

#### 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?*

We must continue to support small businesses and local organizations that can create jobs (within cultural organizations, for example).

#### 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?*

The government must continue to promote immigration to Canada and ensuring that immigrants who settle in Quebec are made aware of use of French. Mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that foreign educational credentials are recognized in Canada. Once again, shortages will not be addressed by making cuts to culture and the environment.

#### 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?*

I believe that the cultural community and organizations remain vulnerable whenever there is uncertainty. There is a mistaken tendency of believing that there is no return on the arts and not calculating what the arts contribute in financial revenues alone. Aboriginal communities must be given more support in order to provide them with decent conditions.