

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Chris Coates

### 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?*

- Increase investment in affordable education in order to keep Canada "fair" plus "competitive" - Increase Auditor General work, implement those recommendations - Fire Ministers, etc. that do not respect tax payers dollars, Canadians' priorities - Stop pursuing "tough on crime, drugs" agenda - wasteful, counter-productive - Reduce money allocated to military

#### 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?*

- Focusing on education at all levels will make Canada competitive in the future - Making education easy to access and affordable to everyone is important in that it makes Canada a fair society where "class" isn't detrimental and everyone has equal opportunities - A fair, just, democratic Canada will encourage immigration

#### 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?*

- Encourage preventative healthcare - Encourage healthy life-styles - Cap dollars spent on healthcare; don't allow it to balloon due to expensive, excessive end-of-life treatments - Aging: invest in education

#### 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?*

- Productivity will increase through education

#### 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?*

- 99% of Canadians are disadvantaged due to income inequality - Income gap between rich-and-poor increasing - Poor people are getting poorer, middle class is disappearing - To reverse this trend, Canada needs to: (a) make education more accessible, effective, affordable to everyone (more schools, more skilled teachers, cheaper college/university), and (b) have the extremely wealthy pay more taxes. - Our

children and future generations are disadvantaged because we're allowing the wholesale of nonrenewable resources and destruction of our environment - Should be addressed by: (a) Collect more of the proceeds from sale of nonrenewables to invest in education, infrastructure, (b) Put a price tag on the cost of destroying our environment - people should not be allowed to ruin our air/water/land without being 100% responsible for the ill-affects.