

## 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?*

a good mixed economy, with well-financed public services complimenting and completing private sector efforts. Downloading real public service jobs that support families onto the private sector which then hires part time labor depriving all of a living wage only promotes poverty in this country.

##### 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?*

Culture is a major vehicle of jobs, and opens doors internationally through cultural exchange. Creating a world class that can be easily exported opens the doors to commercial exchange. The institutions that encourage and nurture culture need to be better supported. This particularly applies to the CBC where there is a pronounced decrease in content, quality, and its ability to serve the Canadian public. I would also like to see more job creation in the health sector, particularly as the population ages. Palliative care, in particular needs to be promoted and firmly established, if only to head off pressures for Euthanasia.

##### 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 biggest problem here is in the Canadian birthrate. Immigration is only a temporary fix. Current social attitudes are strongly anti-birth, and anti-child. What is needed is a change in culture. The government should embark upon a campaign that strongly encourages the benefits of the family. Canadian cultural agencies like the CBC, the NFB, and the public information programs of the various departments should be aligned towards this objective. At the same time, cuts in public health care should target those areas where dollars are being spent to suppress population growth. At the same time, substantial tax benefits could be made to those families that have three or more children, and where the spouse stays home to care for them. Training should be made freely available to young people, so that there is no economic barrier to their build up of a skill set and their integration into the work force of this country. At the same time, there is real discrimination in the work force towards people of 45+ years who find themselves unemployed. Young managers will simply not hire them, perceiving their experience to be a threat, or considering them to be dinosaurs incapable of adapting to change. IF older workers are to remain active, these attitudes have got to change. The government plays a role here, if in downsizing the public service, it simply puts civil servants into early retirement. You can hardly expect the private sector to be better.

#### **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?*

Public information and propaganda campaigns promoting a higher birth-rate; cuts in health to services that prevent the growth of the Canadian population, recognition of family productivity as a productive unit of society, a real investment in public broadcasting so as to promote these objectives, facilitation of training for young people, incentives to companies to keep and hire older workers (i.e. 45 years +), investment in health services for the elderly particularly if they are expected to be productive, development of flexibility with regards to hours worked so as to adapt to the frailer health of an ageing work force.

#### **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?*

It is important for the federal government to utilize those institutions that enable public policy to be communicated to Canadians, such as the CBC, that can result in changes in attitudes in the public that align them towards those objectives that can result in a more prosperous country.