

## 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?

Avoid any "Starve the beast" approach and cancel any current "Starve the beast" approach. If Canada had not cut the GST by 2 percentage points and had not given the most profitable corporations in the country over \$12 billion in tax cuts, we would not have a national deficit right now, the Canadian debt would not have spiked, and there would be no need for austerity measures that impede economic recovery and hurt a great many Canadians. From that perspective, the austerity measures seem like some sort of bad joke that has adverse effects.

#### 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?*

It is vitally important that Canada develop its tertiary sectors to avoid becoming a banana republic and becoming vulnerable to the fluctuating price of bananas (if I may use that analogy). Massive investment in scientific research (basic and applied) and investment in culture (art, cinema, theatre, heritage, etc) would obviously benefit Canada in the medium and long terms. A number of studies show that investment in culture generates more money than it consumes on a national scale. In short, invest extensively in SCIENCE and CULTURE. Although it is a provincial jurisdiction, massive investment in EDUCATION would certainly have a positive impact on the country's economy in the medium and long terms.

#### 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?*

Increase immigration of skilled labourers; increase incentives to have children; charge 1% tax on inheritance.

#### 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?*

Cut tax gifts to companies that send jobs overseas; focus on cutting edge technologies, science and on culture and the arts.

## **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?*

The middle class is a "business" that is facing challenges and the oil industry is a business that is not. Provide tax relief to the middle class and collect more royalties from the oil industry. Why has Canada's debt skyrocketed by 40% since the Conservatives came to power, when the oil companies are making record profits, paying ridiculous royalty rates and benefiting from tax cuts? That is the question.