

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Glenergy Inc.

### 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?*

Spearhead the elimination of inter-provincial trade barriers Ensure a positive incentive to work throughout the EI and welfare systems Simplify the tax system--dramatically

#### 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?*

Manage the tax income from exported raw resources (logs, unprocessed minerals) to increase the value-added of exports. Sell shirts, not cotton. Sell gasoline, not crude oil.

#### 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?*

Subsidize apprenticeships. Encourage journeymen and masters to accept apprentices. Maybe require it. Support the efforts of small businesses in their efforts to provide pension coverage (through, for example, matching RRSP programs). Provide an incentive for companies to implement such programs. As above, with health and dental benefits.

#### 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?*

Remote communities are saddled with outrageous electricity costs resulting from the need to ship or even fly in diesel fuel for generators. Many of these communities would benefit tremendously from renewable energy sources. There are a number of companies specializing in the mini-grid provision of such services--encourage them with subsidies for northern communities to 'go green' when buying from Canadian sources. The cost of supporting reasonable lifestyles in the north reduces our overall effectiveness as a nation. The complexity of the income tax system creates a lot of work for accountants and lawyers. I would rather pay my accountant to help me model new business approaches. Simplification of the income tax approach would allow more resources to be spent on process improvements.

## **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?*

Oops, please see my response to the previous question regarding Northern communities. Young people coming into the workforce with unrealistic expectations of salary, benefits and job description are unwilling to take jobs they feel are beneath them. Consequently, many jobs go unfilled. It should always be better to be working than not--for many this is not the case.