

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Hugh Graham

### 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 think there needs to be a change in the regulatory environment for the Northwest Territories. A regulatory environment with defined timelines will encourage not only balanced development in the Northwest Territories, but will give certainty to potential investment in the NWT with certainty of project timelines. This will encourage secondary industry and stop the boom-bust cycles of the NWT. There are many resource based projects and infrastructure projects in the NWT that can be nation building projects.

#### 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?*

Again, nation building infrastructure projects in the North can create thousands of jobs for Canadians (the Mackenzie Valley Highway alone could be 7000 jobs). This will open the Mackenzie Valley for resource development and more potential jobs. Regulatory approval for mines such as Avalon's Nechalacho project can help Avalon reach market certainty quicker.

#### 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?*

Money needs to be put into early childhood development. People need to be encouraged to have children.

#### 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?*

There needs to be a balance in education. Not all children need to go to college. Some need to go into trades, services, college, etc. We need to bring balance to the education system so that kids have choices.

## **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?*

Aboriginal people need to be approached in a way that is meaningful. The handouts have to stop and they need to be approached as partners. This will not be a 1 yr program or a 5 yr program. It will take a generation to bring this around