

## 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 population that is poorly served when it comes to basic services (education, health care and other public services) cannot hope to blossom and be successful, especially personally and socially. Therefore, it would be important for the government to rethink its economic recovery strategy, which currently focuses too heavily on extractive industry and energy exports (Dutch disease on our doorstep, otherwise). I am afraid that we would extract too much, too quickly. It should redistribute its investments in other sectors (agriculture, fisheries, services, tourism) for average, but stable, growth that would not be to the detriment of the population...

#### 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?*

Would it not be possible to ensure some protectionism or a measured self-sufficiency in uncertain times? We could also allow ourselves to enter new markets interested in our exports, such as the emerging BRIC countries, that would free us from our dependence on the American economy with respect to exports.

#### 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?*

Make post-secondary education accessible to develop an interest in jobs with high recruitment potential and rely on appropriate immigration that would allow Canada to benefit from the true experience and skills of individuals who want to help build Canada.

#### 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?*

If we grow, will it be at the expense of our environment and future generations? When we talk about competitiveness, are we talking about lowering the bar of production costs, including a decrease in job security, wages and social benefits?

## **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?*

Young people are facing growing debts as a result of the high cost of living and job insecurity. Immigrants arrive in Canada and realize that their chance to contribute to the country's economy will be a long time coming because it is a privilege they will have to earn... At the same time, people approaching retirement do not seem to be able to leave, realizing that they have less saved than they thought. Therefore, we should put measures in place encouraging people at the end of their career so that they can leave their position to the next generation with peace of mind.