

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Bob Herold

### 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?*

Continue as the government has been doing. Thumbs up on efforts to date. That said, cut the fat and politically-driven spending - having just retired from federal service, I can say with some knowledge that there is more than a little. It's odd that there are hotlines for harrassment, for crimes, for almost everything except waste.

#### 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?*

Reciprocal trading arrangements with other nations. That cuts both ways however; if a nation is not playing according to Hoyle, we need to protect our own. Perhaps 'mirror' legislation would be appropriate in some cases.

#### 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?*

More visibility and funding for apprenticeships. Allowing skilled immigrants to go to the head of the line. Related to this, working with professional bodies to ease the way for immigrants with non-Canadian qualifications. (As an example of this, my wife met a man some years ago who was working as a taxi driver although he was a fully-qualified medical doctor. He could not afford the courses mandated for Canadian certification. Such a waste.)

#### 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?*

Measures that reinforce success, as opposed to propping up failure.

#### 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?*

Measures that reinforce success, as opposed to propping up failure.

