

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Deanna Leonard

### 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?*

Given the world's extreme economic dependence on oil and natural resources, and their limited supply, Canada needs to develop a 'plan B' through policies that support innovation, local manufacturing, and locally-grown food. We need to be more sustainable but also more self-sustaining and individuals and as a country. We need more policies to regulate industry. It's through regulation that we all adapt and do what is needed. We need to look to socialist countries and follow their examples, not travel down the same road as the USA. We should continue to invest in promoting a Canadian identity through the CBC. Media plays such a big role in the lives of young people. We should support the development of cultured young Canadians through exposure to CBC and buffer them from the harmful media and marketing. Too much television is USA focused. We have to protect our unique identity by investing in CBC, especially as the world gets smaller and smaller with the internet and social media.

#### 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?*

We should promote jobs in Canada by supporting locally grown food and manufacturing. We should reward innovation and be open to the future. We should invest in education and training for First Nations people in Canada. It's a mistake to fire scientists and create industrial jobs that require very little education. We should invest in the great thinkers of this Country.

#### 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?*

We should invest in life long Education and training. We should learn from the aboriginal people of Canada when it comes to our aging population. Aboriginal Elders are the most respected and often the busiest people in any community. They are the teachers. We should promote an attitude of life-long learning and teaching instead of an attitude of working till retirement. We have so much to benefit from our elders. They should never be seen as a burden.

#### 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?*

See previous comment. We should promote life-long learning. Adult education, re-training, etc. We need to turn our elders into teachers and support that as a concept.

## **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-aged, middle class is facing the tough expectations with lowest pay in many generations. School systems should support family life and work life for two-working-parent families. We need to prevent middle-class families from getting too far into debt. Teaching and training young people about planning for retirement, saving, living withing their means... this should be a priority.