

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Murray Mclaughlin

### 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?*

Continued support for the bioeconomy through support for SDTC; support for CECR programs such as Bioindustrial Innovation Centre/Sustainable Chemistry Alliance(BIC/SCA) which focus on commercialization. Both organizations have leveraged their federal dollars several fold. For example BIC/SCA have leveraged 5.2 million of investment to 137 million of matching investments. The Bioeconomy will be a significant driver of the global economy and Canada can be a leader through organizations like the above mentioned.

#### 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?*

Canada has an opportunity to be a leader in the Bioeconomy, particularly in the areas of bioindustrial businesses such as those attracted to locations like Sarnia. For example Bioamber is an 85 million dollar project, creating 250 construction jobs and 40 full time direct jobs. BIC/SCA investment companies have created 256 direct jobs and 1120 indirect jobs in the bioindustrial area, that was with an investment of 5.2 million dollars through a CECR program and 400,000/year operating. It is one example of what the government can be doing with a small focused amount of funding. There are other similiar programs that also operate as non-profit economic developers in Canada, ensure they are supported. Small investments for significant returns.

#### 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?*

Work with Colleges to ensure appropriate technical programs are in place. For example Lambton College in Sarnia is developing a program to train technicians for the biobased chemical industry and bioproducts with input from industry. Develop and support Private Public Partnerships that will bring more focus and support to this inportant issue and put more programs in place to support colleges in training for the future

#### 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?*

Productivity is a key factor that needs to be addressed in partnership with industry - develop a high level panel to provide advice on this - particularly for key areas such as bioeconomy ( bioindustrial; biobased chemicals,etc).

## 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?*

There is no particular sector or community to point out - it is a national issue. Design and support Cluster building programs. An example: Sarnia is becoming a biobased chemical cluster in partnership with the petroleum industry - Hybrid chemical cluster in progress - research Park for pilot facilities, industrial Parks for commercial build outs; Lambton college as the trainer and BIC/SCA, a CECR project, as the facilitator. Check their results after 3 years - jobs created; new startups established; etc.  
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