

## 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?*

Firstly, economic GROWTH is not sustainable. Therefore let's say economic security, stability and sustainability. The most important indicator of economic security in any country lies in its ability to feed itself. Therefore, subsidies for the small farmer, taxation for the factory farmer. Encourage food production. Gradually shift from top down economics to bottom up. Feed the economy from the bottom by encouraging small business. Grab some of the tax money that is leaving the country in tax shelters for large corporations and billionaires. Encourage manufacturing in Canada. Don't export what we can use at home. Don't import what we can supply at home. This is not protectionism, it is looking after ourselves responsibly and in a way that creates work for Canadians and markets for Canadians. And it is sustainable and kinder to the environment.

#### 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?*

Only export what we don't need and import what we don't have. That alone creates jobs because there is a stable market less affected by other countries. Corporatization kills jobs and creates obscene profits that do not go back into the work force. Break this down into smaller companies with more local markets. More workers needed for this, meaningful work for them, a local market. There is less need for expensive regulation when the markets are more local. Distribution is smaller, so a much lower risk. Less crowding together of animals or food which raises cross-contamination risks. Build things from our lumber instead of exporting raw lumber. We don't have to compete in the world market as much if we have what we need in our own 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?*

Relax some of the trainer requirements so skills of the aging can be passed along to the younger. Subsidize training institutions to facilitate more education. In some countries post-ed training is free for citizens. Don't expect everything to turn a monetary profit. Having a skilled, healthy workforce is a HUGE asset. If both parents didn't have to work to support their family, one could be home and provide a more quality upbringing of the children; also provide care for aging family members keeping them out of hospitals and institutions for a longer period of time. The taxation system should encourage this more. Support non pharmaceutical healing and maintenance of health by making it cheaper to eat quality food and more expensive to eat unhealthy packaged food and fast food restaurants with unhealthy food. Cheaper bicycles/smart cars, more expensive gas guzzlers.

#### **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?*

Competitiveness is a red herring. If we can provide for our own we do not need to compete with others. Luxury item prices can spike (luxury tax) and what makes us educated, healthy and employed can be supported/subsidized. Our values should not be that we can compete on the world stage. Our values should be that we have low poverty rates, high education rates, high healthiness rates, low crime rates, high happiness rates. We don't want everything. We want enough. We want to take pride in our work, our families, our country. This will create a culture of values where there is no need or inclination to "have nothing to lose" and commit crimes based on that. Productivity will increase exponentially when Canadians have pride in what they do.

#### **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?*

Rural areas tend to have the same regulations as dense areas with circumstances that make such regulations completely irrational. Have regulations that suit different levels/sizes of production. More localized production and distribution so that our customers and workers are our neighbours and local communities. The food industry being corporatized is squeezing out rural food producers. Mitigating this will make a huge difference nationally. The picture in statistics (mostly coming from Ontario and Quebec as most densely populated) do not reflect the whole country. Help is needed in rural areas, farther north, in First Nation communities and in areas destroyed by resource extraction (read TAR SANDS). Thinking about sustainability instead of growth is the key to all of this decision making and planning.