

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Brigit O'Leary

### 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. Cut back on military spending, war planes as well as the over focus on building prisons. b. We should be applying funds to employment, development of a stable society and building upon the resources we have. c. We need to explore development of resources into energy alternatives as the North Europeans are. As we may build on education, especially the trades for the young who need skill development and work, at the same time we have need for upgrading and building infrastructure. While the West is developing the East (of Manitoba) is needing revitalization. We can offer so much to new immigrants who are trained in various trades, but we need to also invest in their becoming Canadian in values and building on the needs of the future generation while perserving the environment and social net of the country. I also believe the administrative arms of government and lobby circles need to be revisited in to developing a leaner and more effective body for government and major institutions. Develop new tax incentives for affordable housing, too many people cannot afford housing and yet are so necessary in the service and trades industry. Homelessness is not necessary, crime comes from social ills and desperate needs.

#### 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?*

Canadian youth and immigrants are important resources that could be better utilized in regards it investment of labour training and streamlined into areas that are needed for the future as the aging boomers leave the workforce. The foreign investment is important yet as other countries put their national interests first and conditions for investment, this too should be a cornerstone for long term thinking and protection of the integrity of the country, its people, natural resources and the environment. Long term thinking, safe guards, investment in new technology as well as more eco friendly enterprises. Young people want to work, older people value work and learning and should be tapped for a more inclusive and cohesive social structures. Tap the talent.

#### 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?*

Tax incentives and other models for affordable family housing with more eco effectdive living as well... the old generation is healthy and the Europeans use Folk Schools and intergenerational learning and social structures. More focus on trades, more funding for youth to afford training and not bogged down with student loan debt. Housing, schooling, effective health care and healthy ecofriendly living spaces support a healthier population. Efforts to improve the process for citizenship is good. National programs and institutions like the CBC radio and tv have world famous tradition of offering both what it

is to be Canadian as well as a venue for democratic discussion. We have to value our arts, cultural institutions, environmental bodies to help keep industry and society in balance. We have become a mecca for many the past few years from developed nations with many trained specialists, we need to support the population as a whole, from the service providers to the professionals and aged.

#### **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?*

Taking serious consideration and evaluation of the immigration professional entering Canada. Many are trained and unable to practice or be evaluated or upgraded in the skill sets of the medical field according to the popular lore. Can we tap these skill sets and get these people working to our standards? Are we focused on encouraging skill workers as well as focused on training the youth that are in areas needed in the big picture? Investment in education, social development, including those of the aboriginal peoples, they have the fastest growing population yet are still lagging. Training the youth, refocus education on the needs of the economic and social institutions...using tax incentives, building in quotas of investment of foreign companies into the social fabric...such as housing and education is used in other countries.

#### **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 larger population is aging, health and welfare of this population can be value for Canada as elders have the education, work ethic and wisdom. Keep them healthy with affordable health care and affordable housing...tap the talent for the social fabric of the emerging youth population and immigrants. Youth are not getting jobs or training, some countries have national service that helps give them a work ethic, this may not work here but apprentice programs, affordable housing incentives and more inclusive social structures build a healthier society. Immigrates are an excellent resource and should be supported in integration in both the social and work fabric...invest in people.