

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Elizabeth Oosterman-Nicholson

### 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?*

- spending on infrastructure since it needs to be done and it creates jobs - a national energy strategy to ensure that Canada profits from its energy resources but without bringing the country into disrepute internationally - an initiative to assist provinces in raising the prospects of underprivileged children in Canada so that they can have productive lives rather than being a drain on the criminal justice and social welfare systems

#### 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?*

- there should be a better system of matching job openings to job seekers, similar to the recent changes in EI - there should be a system in place where small shortfalls in applicants' experience could be made up for with government-subsidized training - statistics about where job openings are available and economic trends with respect to jobs should be made more widely available so that students can make better-informed decisions about what training to engage in

#### 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?*

- the federal government should help provinces to collaborate and conduct research to establish best practices for dealing with ailing people, emphasizing low-cost alternatives such as home-care - there should be vigorous support for family members who need to take time off work or to work fewer hours in order to look after ailing relatives - the areas - geographic and economic - where there are skill shortages should be more clearly advertised and training offered to help fill those positions - immigration should be encouraged, emphasizing both filling skill shortages and helping refugees - our immigration policies should not force people to choose between coming to Canada and being loyal to their families (e.g. not letting parents immigrate) because the people who don't care about their families aren't the ones we prefer in Canada

#### 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?*

- there should be a better system of matching job openings to job seekers, similar to the recent changes in EI - there should be a system in place where small shortfalls in applicants' experience could be made up for with government-subsidized training - statistics about where job openings are available and

economic trends with respect to jobs should be made more widely available so that students can make better-informed decisions about what training to engage in

**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?*