

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Arnold Sikkema

### 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?*

Increase funding for post-secondary education, especially by way of scholarships for science undergraduate students in AUCC institutions (including non-publicly-funded universities). Increase funding for basic science research. Increase the tax credit for charitable giving from 29% to 42%. Improve telecommunications infrastructure nationwide: allow more communications companies to compete for mobile phone service, and encourage high-speed internet development in rural areas. Encourage green-energy technology.

#### 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?*

Each of the items in my previous response stimulate job creation: Increase funding for post-secondary education, especially by way of scholarships for science undergraduate students in AUCC institutions (including non-publicly-funded universities). Increase funding for basic science research. Increase the tax credit for charitable giving from 29% to 42%. Improve telecommunications infrastructure nationwide: allow more communications companies to compete for mobile phone service, and encourage high-speed internet development in rural areas. Encourage green-energy technology.

#### 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?*

Open immigration to skilled workers from foreign countries. Ensure their certification can travel here with them.

#### 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?*

Same as previous response: Open immigration to skilled workers from foreign countries. Ensure their certification can travel here with them.

## **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?*

Aboriginal peoples. See the document here

[http://www.arpacanada.ca/attachments/1599\\_Aboriginal%20Affairs%20-%20English.pdf](http://www.arpacanada.ca/attachments/1599_Aboriginal%20Affairs%20-%20English.pdf) which has many valuable suggestions.