

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Madeline Spence

### 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?*

To refrain from austerity measures. It has been proven that this approach will have no beneficial results and is actually detrimental to the economic health of many countries.

#### 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?*

Invest in environmental research- this is an area in which Canada has the potential to become a significant leader. By this I mean: hybrids cars, biofuel, greater research into safety for the Keystone Pipeline, climate change.

#### 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?*

Free post-secondary education, including college. There is no way that the youth population will be able to support the aging one without a versatile and well-developed background in studies.

#### 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?*

Stop spending money on planes. Instead invest them in education.

#### 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 Arts community is currently facing major challenges, particularly Federal institutions such as the CBC and NFB. Their funding should absolutely not be cut, as both provide a significant role in bringing Canada together, as well keeping the population enlightened across the board. Climate change research needs to be reinstated.