

## 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?*

Minimize government, and encourage private and commercial growth. Social justice, education, cultural preservation, and environmental protection and remediation, science and technology, and space exploitation should be the focus of government; the government should also strive to minimize their need for top-down control and government funding.

#### 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?*

Resilience should be the top priority. Respect for resource depletion and environmental recovery is paramount to long-term economic survival. Creating resilient companies should be an obvious priority. Resilient companies are small and varied companies that work together in a network to protect one-another and to exploit market niches by constantly creating new and diverse offshoots. The goal is to create diversity and competition. This results in a strong and resilient network. Graceful degradation keeps this network from collapsing under stress.

#### 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?*

More than ever, we need to protect and nourish our aging population. They are experiencing a very difficult time in our history due to our failure to plan ahead. We need to be creating jobs and community service positions by which skilled and experienced senior citizens can continue to contribute to national prosperity, and we need to be creating education programs by which senior citizens can gain new skills appropriate to their age and abilities so that they may continue to serve their communities. Retirement is an antiquated idea. No-one should ever be set aside to die.

#### 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?*

Incentives for aged workers, incentives for employers to employ aged workers, and a focus on community service for senior citizens. How we treat our elders says who we are as a people.

## **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?*

Access to quality training and education for youths and minority youths in particular; access to quality training and education for senior citizens; incentives for seniors to continue working and serving their communities after retirement; incentives for employers to hire seniors; protection for the mental and physical health of minorities and refugees; and funding and tax breaks for minorities seeking quality training and education.