

## 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?*

Do something to reduce our ridiculously soaring food prices. When people have to work all-out just to buy groceries, they have to cut back on everything else - not just on extras but on things like clothes and vehicles.

#### 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?*

Cut back on GST/HST and all the other taxes (including hidden taxes) that force companies to raise their prices to compensate.

#### 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?*

How about encouraging companies to aim their marketing at the Boomers? This is the largest segment of the population, yet all marketing programs seem to be aimed at youth. Also include some strong campaigns to fight the increasing age-ism that is so rife in the business sector. There are plenty of skilled older workers out there who can't get work because they're being discriminated against because of their age.

#### 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?*

Productivity is directly tied to work ethic. A large part of the problem here lies not in government mandates but in the changing attitudes of the population in general. How about encouraging schools of all types, from elementary to university, to emphasize responsibility and maturity instead of "self-esteem" (which seems to translate straight into "selfishness")?

#### 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 greatest challenges are faced by the majority of Canadian citizens who are earning less than the "poverty" level of \$44,000 a year (or whatever it is now). Do something to actually improve health care (instead of trying to kill it to encourage US-style "medicine for profit") Do something about insane

housing costs.