

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Beatrice Ainstey

Responses
<b>1. Economic Recovery and Growth</b>
<i>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?</i>
Investment in education Training initiatives for trades where there are current and forecasted shortages of trained workforce Support for small businesses Job creation incentives for small business
<b>2. Job Creation</b>
<i>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?</i>
Offsets for GST, WCB fees and EI premiums Streamlined process for regional nominee and foreign worker programs Lower interest rates for bank business loans and BDC loans
<b>3. Demographic Change</b>
<i>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?</i>
Create incentives for students going into trades training Develop incentives for employers hiring trainees who need to acquire hours Develop programs to encourage older workers to serve as trainers and mentors Develop programs that allow individuals to work more while undertaking training, using on the job trainers and mentors
<b>4. Productivity</b>
<i>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?</i>
Develop programs for high school students that introduce the concept of work ethic -- many youth graduate with the belief that they are "entitled" to a great job immediately. They do not understand the notion of starting at ground level and working their way up or over. Develop significant tax credits (not token ones) for retired workers who volunteer to help train/educate younger workers
<b>5. Other Challenges</b>
<i>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?</i>
Smaller/more communities lack the training facilities needed to meet regional needs with respect to trades; outside the box solutions are needed for these situations. Rural and northern workers often have excellent skills that are not formally recognized -- finding ways to get people certified while working in their own communities would be very helpful. Business with seasonal activities will face

great difficulty attracting Canadian workers, given the recent changes to EI legislation. There needs to be some way to deal with seasonal work -- especially in rural and northern areas.