

## 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?*

Invest in community infrastructure renovation and construction, maintain jobs in the public service and invest in research.

#### 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?*

Promote research and development in order to invest in specialized sectors and thereby surpass the competition by developing our own niche markets. Promote the emergence of secondary and tertiary processing of Canada's natural resources.

#### 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?*

Improve old age pension and retirement plans in order to keep seniors out of poverty when they retire. Encourage research and development of technologies to make up for the labour shortage. Make it easier for skilled and trained people to immigrate and make it easier for people to move between provinces.

#### 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?*

Facilitate and promote research and development of new productivity enhancing technologies.

#### 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?*

First nations: endemic poverty, violence and addiction. Support the construction of new housing and social and recreational infrastructure, while allowing the communities to take charge of their own development. In short: provide support without being paternalistic. Low-income earners and housing: subsidize the construction of new social housing in areas where the cost of housing is the most inaccessible.

