

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## David Brekke

### 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?*

#### 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?*

#### 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?*

#### 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?*

#### 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?*

Invest in a more than fifty percent effective electoral system. Hopefully this recommendation will fit into your category 5. It is to invest in an electoral system that could result in a more truly representative democracy with Government that would be both transparent and accountable during its term of office. To be effective the Government would need to learn to work collaboratively with the Opposition, because the Opposition would have the power to hold the Government accountable. Government abuse of power, as Omnibus Bill, should not occur. I think the following quote describes our present situation well and causes fear of the future unless positive change is made. At this time, I'm sorry that I

cannot give you the writer's full name. "But if the laws and decisions of Parliament are not rendered by the majority of a democratic representative Parliament – but instead by MPs representing a minority of voters – then on the face of it the laws lack democratic legitimacy and do not automatically warrant the obedience of a democratic citizen. The rule of law with widespread voluntary compliance is among the greatest achievements of western civilization – but in the absence of representative democracy its underpinnings are shaky and ultimately unsustainable". Dev Who? All voters who did not vote for the winner in their riding plus those qualified voters that see no reason to vote under our present system. What are the challenges? To give Canadians a feeling that taking part in an election has a high probability of having a meaningful effect on the election outcome. I have a system previously discussed with Ryan Leef, MP, for consideration. What specific federal actions are needed? This government has both the power and time to work positively with a citizens' commission established with a mandate to have a more meaningful electoral system in place before the next election. If not, Government shows a lack of respect for democracy. The membership of this commission should be representative and based on the voting results of the past election, not the seat results. Respectfully submitted, Dave Brekke, Former Federal Returning Officer for Yukon