

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Danielle Caron

### 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?*

Given the current climate concerning the economy, the government (the country) has to rethink its old economic growth models and start to move towards a management without growth (Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster, by Peter Victor). This way, Canada could start again to show the way instead of being seen, worldwide, as a polluter and a country that has no respect for the environment.

#### 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?*

Canada should put the emphasis on job creation in the environment field and take example on the German model, amongst others, to promote the use of sun-air energy by local communities. The whole economic model needs to be rethought with sustainability in mind, and the federal government needs to come clean on its association with the tar sands industry in Alberta.

#### 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?*

Canada has to open its frontiers to qualified people and recognize the qualifications & diplomas (ex: medical field) acquired by the Canadian residents in their country of origin. Too many extremely qualified people from India, Eastern Europe etc. are not allowed to work in their field of specialization here, in Canada.

#### 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?*

Once again, the whole problem here, is the rigidity of the old economic models, and all the vocabulary used here in that regard. There is a immense need to decentralize. I am convinced that decentralization is part of the solution. And increasing the awareness and educating the population about decentralization and showing them who to take their economic destiny in their own hands. Education is a key factor here. I am fed up with the "increase productivity" discourse. It is not about increasing productivity (can one increase productivity till the end of time? Of course not. Everything has its peak and its decline). It is about decreasing consumption, educating people about decreased consumption and its benefits for the whole planet. Now, not trusting you much, I hope that my name will not end on some "black list" of the dangerous environmentalists here. Remember, please, that we are not in the

Middle-Ages anymore.

## **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?*

I am part of the people facing the biggest challenges in this country. I am 60 years old, have been working as a freelancer all my life, was forced to use my savings 3 years ago due to a prolonged illness, I am ill again now and cannot work and have no resources anymore. For me, amongst the most dramatic and "retrogrades" things that your government has done since in power, there is the reduction of the retirement pensions for those who have not worked in companies all their life. These actions are preposterous and scandalous. The federal government needs to adopt a totally different position in that regard if he wants to be judged as progressive instead of regressive, like it is the case now. I don't feel that I belong to a democratic country anymore.