

## 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?*

The federal government is NOT being fiscally restrained. Just what is the cost of those prisons and F-35s? No seriously. What is it? Laying off people is not the way to recover an economy. People without jobs do not spend money. Forward thinking needs to start happening. Investment should be made in growing the renewable energy sector. Oil is a finite resource. We cannot profit from it forever. More to the point, what is the cost of restoring the environment once our supplies are depleted? Students should be better cared for. Investing in the youth is investing in the future. Scientists should be highly valued, not only for their contribution to modern society, but for the potential of developing new technologies which could be used to forward new sectors of economic growth as we must surely leave behind the out-of-date sectors everyone seems so desperate to cling to.

#### 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?*

Invest in clean energy. Invest in desalination plants. With a fuel crisis looming, it only makes sense to be able to sell our energy - clean energy - and water, no doubt, will become the greatest resource need. Desalination plants will ensure fresh water for the country, and fresh water to sell to those without. The best thing the government can do for this country is to prepare us for the eventualities we are clearly hurtling towards, not try and pretend the future won't happen.

#### 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?*

Skills shortages? Easy. Lower tuition. Make it so EVERYONE can afford to study. People without degrees work at McDonald's. People working at McDonald's cannot afford to save for a pension, cannot put their own children through university or college, and the cycle is endless.

#### 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?*

Green energy initiatives. Lower tuition. Stop taxing savings. Close tax loops that allow the highest earners to pay virtually nothing while the working poor get poorer and poorer.

## **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 working poor are bearing the burden of tax, working long hours for little pay, and are not rewarded for their efforts. Fix it. Students cannot afford to get qualified, meaning home-grown talent is becoming a thing of the past, and those that dare to try are faced with crippling life-long debt. Fix it. Stop wasting money on prisons we don't need, on fighter jets we don't want. Permit refugees with the qualifications to work in their adoptive countries. We could fix the doctor shortage quick smart if a national exam + internship programme was developed. I cannot tell you the number of extraordinarily over-qualified taxi drivers I have met!