

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Isabel Carson

### 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?*

We have lost ownership of our industries and it is difficult to find products that are made in Canada. It is good that finally there is a move to trade schools for our young people - it is important that there are jobs available for all Canadians and that there is adequate training available. Housing costs are high and produce a debt. Low cost housing, co-op housing would keep the debt down and allow the younger generations who are just starting out to afford a home. In the nineteen fifties, when I was starting it was possible to purchase a frame and live in it and finish yourself, or to build from scratch. Mortgages were stable which meant that you had for 20 years a steady cost that was easily handled. Can you not look at the entire population a little while looking for solutions?

#### 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?*

Train our young people in a variety of trades so that they look forward to an occupation and a wage. We have lost ownership of many Canadian companies and so are scarcely dependent upon ourselves so, of course, the world economy matters.

#### 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?*

Certainly not by increasing the retirement age for that just increases the unemployment at the younger age. Begin using our Health Care to keep our aging population active - I believe that those in the baby boomer age are in much better shape than the generation ahead. It is possible to have an older generation who is healthy and active. Health care can do a lot to promote this - prevention. Again low cost housing so that independent living is possible for all.

#### 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?*

Again, training the young people - put money into education, all types. If the education is diversified, there will be youth able to take over in all fields. They will be perhaps more capable than the present aging population but they need the education and the opportunities. Encourage Canadian ownership and investment by Canadians.

## **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?*

Some of the Scandinavian countries are solving these problems. It starts with the citizens, with the education of our young not only in universities but in practical trades in business, how to manage money, and how the banking system works. Invest in affordable housing for all. Just building it would help both with job creation and children falling into the gang culture. Habitat cannot possibly do it all. Of course we also need diversification but again, start with the people. The gap between the wealth at the top and the predicament and finances of the ordinary people is far too great - lets switch things. We have a huge challenge with the drug situation which includes prescription drugs, we need to look at our home resources and use them. Our young people are bright don't set them up for unemployment - educate them to choose an occupation and build the country.