

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Helen Danahy

### 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?*

Jobs that pay a living wage. Social security for those unable to work or find a job that enables them to address their basic need for accommodations, food and medical services. Guaranteed Income supplement for seniors that enable them to live a productive life without worries about paying rent and buying food.

#### 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?*

Job creations in Canada is a must and the Government needs to develop policies that ensure the job market in Canada is not impacted by foreign interest in forwarding their personal well being and profits at the cost and on the backs of Canadians. Large corporations should be required to pay taxes that reflect their income and not be able to have large profits at the expense of its employees and clients. Foreign investments in Canada should increase job opportunities of all Canadians and provide a living wage for them. Canadians should not be required to supplement the income of foreign investors by receiving minimal wages.

#### 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?*

The challenges of the aging population and the shortage of skilled workers are a reality that the government needs to address immediately. There are a lot of Canadians who cannot find a job in the field in which they were trained. The Government needs to provide training sessions at no cost to these workers so that they can work. All Canadians who have been laid off could be retrained to work in jobs where there are shortages. Educations and training of both our young and unskilled workers would benefit people and enable them to contribute to the economy.

#### 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?*

To increase productivity, the federal government needs to educate the public as to where they can contribute to productivity in Canada. Government leaders need to invite the public to share their ideas and listen to the ideas that are practical and will advance the opportunities for Canadians to work. Programs and initiatives that involve Canadians will work if time, energy and money is invested in them.

## **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?*

Our youth and professional people, who are unable to find jobs that pay a living wage face the challenges of participating in meaningful employment and meeting the needs of living productive lives. Federal actions: Provide training for jobs that needs specific skills and where there is a shortage of skilled laborers. Fund the costs of people to get the education and training to participate in these programs and training sessions. Provide affordable living accommodations and wages to meet their needs while being educated and trained. Develop and implement policies that protect workers against employers who do not provide just wages and benefits. Recognize and reward employers who incorporate employees into their corporations providing just wages and benefits to employees with tax breaks.