

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Eric Elliott

### 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?*

Greater provision of funding to ensure that finished products are produced in Canada rather than the exporting of raw materials. Greater support for local communities rather than trusting economic growth to large corporations that primarily export jobs and materials out of this country. Greater support for the integration of trained immigrants into the economy so their skills are not wasted. Greater support for local programming to benefit local communities rather than stifling creativity with endless mass-market pabulum. Less support for mega-projects that benefit only a few and hurt many.

#### 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?*

Strongarming companies that seek to outsource jobs to foreign labour markets solely to benefit a small number of shareholders into keeping the jobs in Canada. Supporting jobs stimulus in communities rather than simply introducing tax breaks, which hurt many and benefit only a few. More funding to local government rather than placing greater financial burden on provincial and local governments. Stop cutting funding to programs that create jobs, permit greater access to information resources, and benefit more than those who are already receiving tax breaks. Stop believing in the false concept that international trade can be developed simply by changing internal circumstances; if the world economy suffers a hit, the best way of improving the national economy is improving the internal economic situation, which sometimes requires running a deficit. Stop the endless government wastage by ministers and political appointees. It's not the civil service that is squandering the government's money, but the government (Cabinet, etc.) itself.

#### 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?*

Lower the retirement age back to 65. Improve funding and assessment of the health care system. Permit greater fluidity in the labour market by obliging the Baby Boomers to retire. Improving employment opportunities for the youth of today, which will permit more funding through employment. Introducing mentorship programs to permit the retirement of Baby Boomers as well as the introduction of knowledgeable replacements.

#### **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?*

Stop the false belief that productivity can increase by increasing the task burden on employees: more tasks cannot be completed better or more quickly with less resources. Force government ministers to become more productive, less wasteful, more resourceful. Fund science. Fund engineering. Fund the humanities. Stop funding cronyism.

#### **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?*

Fund local public broadcasting. Revise said funding to previous levels, keep funding so that it rises with inflation. Fund libraries and archives and re-introduce the NADP. Increase the funding to the LAC and other libraries. Remove the current head of the LAC and replace him with someone who has a better understanding of the organization and its needs. Revise copyright laws so they are in keeping with the time. Recent SCC decisions are a good start. Support information policy developments. Support projects that better communication between all levels of government and business as well as all levels of government and the public.