

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Nicole Goodman

### 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?*

Stop putting all our eggs in one basket with respect to fossil fuels. End fossil fuel subsidies and invest in renewable energy. Transfer fossil fuel subsidies over to renewable energy. Developing oil is exploiting our environmental resources, exacerbating inflation and putting Canadians at risk for the 'dutch disease' which is already leaving a shadow on our country. Also, invest in the development of new, sustainable industries that promote sustainability and environmentalism, technology and the Internet. This is the way of the future. Invest more money in our universities and professors so we can attract the best students and encourage them to work and create companies here.

#### 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?*

Focus on creating new intellectual jobs here in Canada. There will always be jobs for certain services. Creation of more high level jobs. Stop oil projects that create few permanent jobs and instead focus on renewable energy projects, which create many more permanent jobs.

#### 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?*

(1) Create incentives for young people to enter careers related to health and ageing. Work on the deficiencies in our food system - stop GMOs or make companies label their products, promote local produce, create a fat tax while subsidizing healthy food - which put an unnecessary strain on our health system. Having a healthier population will free up hospital beds for people that need them. Being overweight and eating poor quality processed food only exacerbates strain on an already hurting health system. We have a food system that doesn't care about health and a health system that doesn't care about food. Start there. (2) More investment in university and college training programs. Also, collaborative programs between educational institutions and industry.

#### 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?*

Focus on new industries, get away from old dying industries that privilege international oil companies and use finite resources. Technology, research and development, innovation, intellectual jobs - these are the future. More investment from the federal government here - end subsidies to dying industries like the seal trade and big oil. Wasting our tax dollars on these projects is ridiculous.

## **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?*

Low income Canadians - create better and more social programs to help these people. Job training programs. First Nations - We have done enough damage, allow FN communities to live without being bullied. Bring back the programs for FN youth you canceled. Education and health programs are particularly important with special funding for this group. Single mothers - More funding and social programs to help these women get on their feet and raise, healthy, well-adjusted young adults. Small businesses - Grants to encourage small unique, Canadian businesses and help them get started. An environmental program giving money to environmentally sustainable businesses will encourage environmentalism and help off-set some of the obstacles these emerging companies encounter as they try and enter markets to compete with big business.