

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Panos Grames

Responses
<b>1. Economic Recovery and Growth</b>
<i>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?</i>
A diverse and sustainable economy based on renewable energy sources, full employment, strong social support for education, health care and help for the less advantaged. Having a stable and educated society is the key to long term economic growth.
<b>2. Job Creation</b>
<i>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?</i>
With uncertainty in global markets and finance, it's more important than ever to make sure that Canada is self sustaining, with a strong agriculture, manufacturing and education sectors. Clearly global trade is not benefiting all Canadians, and internal trade must be enhanced.
<b>3. Demographic Change</b>
<i>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?</i>
We should take proper care of our aging population, and educate our young people. We should not be bringing in temporary workers to do jobs that Canadians can do.
<b>4. Productivity</b>
<i>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?</i>
High labour costs are a good thing. It means we're paying people well. Bringing in foreign workers just drives down working people's wages.
<b>5. Other Challenges</b>
<i>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?</i>
The biggest challenges we face are inequality. Many people have little, and more importantly, many people have little hope or opportunity. The difference between incomes, and a lack of societal supports makes a huge difference to people in need. Our society has more than ever before, we are richer than ever before, but we are letting the important elements-- education, opportunity and compassion -- slide by in the name of growing money.