

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

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### 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?*

Monies focused on environmental research and development, education, and the arts.

#### 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?*

Scientific research and development for environmental companies, more monies focused on education and the arts in Canada.

#### 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?*

Make all public education (including post-secondary) FREE.

#### 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?*

Put financial focus on research and development, education and the arts.

#### 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?*

The majority of artists in Canada are living below the poverty level for the duration of their lives. Because they are considered to be self-employed people, they are not eligible for benefits such as basic Health or Unemployment Insurance -- something that most employed people take for granted. Self-employed people who are living below the poverty line should be made eligible for unemployment insurance and subsidized health care (dental, optometry, etc.). Furthermore, the government in Canada would benefit internationally by subsidizing the arts on a much larger scale than it has in the past. Many of the governments in Europe subsidize their arts organizations up to 100%

