

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Erin Holland

### 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?*

I would like to see our government invest more in innovation, including windmill technology, as well as developing industries that process our resources and create quality products, rather than shipping out raw resources overseas.

#### 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?*

Invest in small businesses, increase employment in health & social programs that need more people (i.e. health care, support to seniors, CBC radio). Not only will these measures create job opportunities for more Canadians, they will help the country to thrive.

#### 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?*

Invest in training programs, including medical/social support workers for the aging population. Younger people will have good jobs. Seniors will be able to live as independently as possible (when proper support aren't in place, people end up in hospital), and skilled workers won't need to take leave to care for their aging parents/relatives.

#### 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?*

Ensure that health care and social supports are funded adequately, so people don't need to take so much time off of work to deal with their own health issues, or those of their family members.

#### 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?*

Older Canadians are facing social isolation, and the general population is experiencing an increasing lack of connection with their communities. I believe investments should be made in community-building programs that are on the ground and practical (not high level and theoretical). I am also passionate that the funding to the CBC should be increased, as this is an essential way for Canadians to stay in touch with each other and to grow/maintain their sense of Canadian identity.

