

## 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?*

In order to speed up our economic growth, we must favour three things, at the expense of existing budgetary expenses, especially defence expenses. The money currently allocated to the F-35s and other military equipment is not designated in a period of fiscal restraint like the one Canada, the United States and Europe are currently in. I think that defence funds should be transferred to more lucrative sectors in order to make it easier for Canadians. First, national companies (champions) should be developed and offered incentives to discourage them from outsourcing. Second, it is important to maintain, or even increase, funding for scientific research, since this is what enables the country to develop its knowledge industry, which is essential for Canada to be a leader in economic development, of course, and also intelligent development. Last, Canada should develop alliances with emerging and developing countries to help maintain their unrestrained development.

#### 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?*

It is essential for Canada to provide more subsidies for research, since that is truly what will enable this country to identify strengths (expertise) in innovation. Natural resources are no longer enough to distinguish ourselves and position ourselves in the international geopolitical landscape. We must develop intelligence in order to create niche markets that Canadian experts can develop and preserve so that they are the only ones with that knowledge. Canadian know-how is valued less and less, and that is exactly the point, that Canadians are losing credibility internationally. We must act like a developed country---in other words, undertake development that takes into account both the environment and the well-being of its citizens.

#### 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?*

I think that the workforce shortage starts with elementary and high school. Young people are encouraged to go into the trades less and less. We must integrate more opportunities to discover all job markets into the curriculum for children aged 5-17, particularly technical and other trades. As for the aging population, we must ensure that investments are made to health care and, especially, prevention.

**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?*

INNOVATION.

**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 first nations are struggling, since the approach to aid for their communities is not adapted to helping them develop and maintain a quality of life beyond government funding. I sincerely believe that the funding allocated is ill-adapted and creates social stagnation, where they are not encouraged to develop and have pride.