

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Laura Little

### 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 support ethical use of tax dollars to support business in Canada, but not at the cost of the environment or important social programs and the welfare of the general population. I very much support transparency and accountability in government. At this point in time I do not feel that the government has been transparent in their spending plans targeted at economic growth.

#### 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?*

I believe that promoting Canadian products is important. Investing in Canadian business is also important, however this must be taken NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE. We must not use "job creation" as an excuse to cut social programs down to nothing as there is no funding due to huge tax breaks being given to large companies, who may not but putting a significant amount of income back into the Canadian economy. I support developing more trade links, but again, NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT OR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE.

#### 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?*

Having more generous immigration pathways. Speaking as a skilled Canadian who lived abroad for a number of years, I understand the complexities of the immigration system. Finding ways to allow more skilled immigrants in, and streamlining ways for qualifications to be translated into Canadian equivalencies would be ideal. Forcing older Canadians to live in poverty by cutting OAS is not acceptable.

#### 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?*

Investment in sciences, research and technology to work in sustainable ways with our environment results in newer technologies which leads to an increase in productivity. In order for Canada to remain competitive, we must also use the human resource we have, ensuring that our children are not living in poverty, and there is EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION.

## **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?*

I believe that the people facing the most challenges in Canadian society are those living in POVERTY. This includes the working poor, aboriginal people, those collecting welfare benefits, people with addiction issues, seniors, single parent households etc. This government has passed legislation that will put more of these people behind bars, spending more Canadian tax dollars on incarcerating people and cutting important social programs, INCARCERATING PEOPLE DOES NOT WORK. We are taking people out of society, and paying for them to be behind bars while they learn nothing on how to change their life around. Community programmes work to help these people rehabilitate, working towards having them as a productive member of society. I am utterly disgusted with this government's war on the poor, it is government actions -cutting community start-up and other benefits, social programs etc. that causes poverty and crime in the first place.