

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Margaret MacLeod

### 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?*

The best way to ensure economic growth is to keep Canadians working... By making seniors work longer, we are cutting back on jobs for our younger citizens. We need to allow natural attrition to provide job opportunities so that our young families can sustain the economy. What we have been doing in this country is working, so big changes are not necessary... Slow and steady will win the race. We are doing a good job handling our banks and money institutions anything that will discourage people from going into debt is a good idea. We also need to put more emphasis on "greening Canada" so that we are not pouring as many dollars into rising oil prices. This country has the resources to employ solar, wind, water and tidal methods of energy... Why are we using unsustainable sources?

#### 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?*

As previously mentioned, we should be allowing our seniors to retire at 65, thus vacating jobs for our younger citizens. Initiatives and banking policies that discourage debt are smart, but we have to keep our economy alive at the same time.

#### 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?*

Education, education, training, training... Skills training is the way to go... It's cheaper than strictly academic education and our young people will end up with skills, jobs and less debt. Our aging population can help with mentoring and aiding those young people through contract work after retirement.

#### 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?*

Train more young people for specific workplace deficits. Strategic planning for secondary education is necessary. We have a great IT base in this country that should be marketed more broadly, too. I wouldn't worry too much about supporting the aging population, since they are dying of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other autoimmune diseases at a very fast rate. Perhaps if we focused more on proactive health initiatives, more of us would live longer!

## **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?*

Our aboriginal communities seem to be the most challenged right now and we have an obligation to support them in educational, health and growth opportunities whenever possible. We also need to support single parents and families where both parents must work to keep their heads above water. We need more subsidized day care and healthy initiatives for the poor and disenfranchised - especially in the area of mental health and addictions. Small businesses suffer because of the obvious governmental emphasis on supporting large corporations that are run for huge profit and on the backs of their workers. These companies are the demise of Canada as we know it.