

## 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?*

It is essential to invest in scientific research to ensure Canada's long-term economic growth. This includes not only applied research but also basic research, crucial to the support and development of applied research.

#### 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?*

A university degree is required for an increasing number of new jobs. The government should consider a gradual increase in provincial transfer payments for education.

#### 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?*

Labour shortages will be particularly acute in the fields of science and technology. The government must show that it values scientific careers by, for instance, providing financial support to more students interested in these fields.

#### 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?*

An increase in productivity is linked to the quality of the labour force in the fields of science and technology, to support for scientific research and to the development of a consistent, long-term policy on science. The establishment of a Department of Science, Technology and Innovation would greatly contribute to this consistency and vision.

#### 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?*

Canadians living in poverty are the ones who will be facing the most challenges. These Canadians should also benefit from our collective wealth. This involves maintaining and developing adequate social programmes and giving them the training they need to join the labour market.

