

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Richard Mueller

### 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?*

pursue renewable energy sources and technologies. This would help Canada to compete in present and future economic growth areas.

#### 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?*

Switch from the ecologically destructive pursuit of fossil fuels to geothermal, solar and wind sources. The research and development of these sources will give Canadians a chance to stay employed over the medium term. Fossil fuel industries are on their way out and will put Canadians at a distinct disadvantage on global job markets.

#### 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 new technologies which have a future. Fossil fuels have no future. So retrain adults and the youth in technologies which will be demanded globally for decades into the future. These technologies include environmentally sustainable technologies in renewable resources such as geothermal, solar and wind generating technologies.

#### 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?*

Make sure that Canadians are healthy and have the opportunities to pursue healthy lifestyles. That means in part to ensure that Canada has a clean environment. Ensure that Canadians have clean water to drink (stop fracking!), clean air to breathe (stop fracking!), reduce our dependence on fossil fuels), and have sufficient free time to recharge their batteries, so that they can be happier in their workplace and therefore be more productive.

## **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 challenges we face now are several: we should ensure food self-sufficiency, that means grow more food in Canada and be less reliant on other markets and transportation. Canada's environment is degrading quickly, especially as a result of present federal policies promoting the development of fossil fuels. The federal government must pursue policies which help Canadians be competitive in industries, which have a future; fossil fuels do not. The degradation of environmental standards in the omnibus bill will add to the 'particular challenges'. We must ensure that Canada's environment is BETTER protected instead of wasted for short term gain for trans national corporations from the development of fossil fuels. Canada must invest in clean energy solutions. The Chinese are doing just that, and are benefiting from this approach.