

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Echo Parent

### 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?*

Due to the fact that economists are describing the local global economic crisis, measure should be taken on behalf of the government to increase fiscal spending and increase expenditure in social programs. Increased stimulus spending will encourage more growth and therefore, job creation in companies, thereby lowering the unemployment rate and the added cost on social and health services people of lower income are to Canadian taxpayers. Through neglecting social programs, the cost on society will only be increased because of the recession and the type of economic measures which have been taken, it will be more difficult for those spending any time out of the labour market to return to it. Also, less social programs made available will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of Canada's most vulnerable populations, which will only cost more later on. That is why it is better to invest in youth programs and after school day-cares rather than prisons, because they are more fiscally sound long term, and the public will look better to the government since the "welfare state" was one of the founding principles of Canada as a nation.

#### 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?*

Canada should decrease the foreign influence of exportation of Canada resources. With a growing demand for crude oil, Canada's tar sands are looking more appealing. It makes no sense for Canada to let foreign companies exploit Canada's natural resources. Canada should incrementally disfavor foreign companies and encourage Canadian companies to run the exploitation process, as well as increase taxes on larger corporations so that the government can gain a share of the pie as well. It makes no sense from the government stance, to lose both resources, and the taxes which could be collected on its sale.

#### 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?*

HEALTH CARE!! This will pose to be one of the biggest health care crisis's ever to affect Canada. In the next 15 years, when the baby boomers begin to need more care to address the increasing needs of aging citizens, Canada is already dealing with a shortage with its first line health care professionals like nurses and social workers for gerontology and related services. The planning for the crisis needs to be happening now, otherwise it will cost much for for the government to have to fund emergency training programs to meet the needs of the growing demographics needs in health care. Pensions is another questions which needs to be addressed. The youth of today are looking at paying for the pension of baby boomers, but without the population to replace that demographic, pensions will simply not be made possible. Where will the money come from?

#### **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?*

Because of increased encouragement for older workers to remain in the job market, the youth of been penalized by the process. If 20 somethings must compete with higher educated or more experiences workers ( especially older workers), then gaining meaningful job experiences becomes exponentially more difficult. With the changing labour market, a higher education and more specialized skills sets are required, therefor,in order to be given a fair chance, youth must complete years of post secondary education. After completing this education, the majority of students have a debt load to pay off. If it is more difficult to find employment, how will it be possible to pay off the student debt? Also, if it is more difficult to find a position in the field of study and the person must work outside that field or not work all together, it will be much more difficulty to reintegrate into the labour market. Solution: Decrease student debt load and subsidize education in Canada. Create employment training initiative program to help link the needs of the labour market with the skills Canadian workers have to offer , and build upon the two.

#### **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?*

Environment. Many studies will point that the Canadian environment is a strong value to the majority of Canadians and is worth investing and protecting. We are only creating long term and costly problems by neglecting the environment. Solution: Begin taxing companies for environmental damages as a disincentive invest and encourage more sustainable technologies.Green technologies will prove to be the most profitable in the changing world we live in which every resource will be limited and therefore, costly.