

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Roxanne Robillard

### 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?*

Promote a long-term vision that would include sound management of the environment, of our ecosystems, our cultural heritage, developing industries as well as new energies. Stop solely funding and supporting the oil industry now, which in reality seems to benefit just a tiny portion of the population and risks dragging us into an economic quagmire over the next few years. Promote sectors where long-term job creation will result in a decent standard of living for Canadians. Not cut into the funding of programs that provide a certain dignity for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Canadians. The impacts will be devastating on both an economic and social level. Be innovative and creative in our funding mechanisms and in our economic and political management. Establish interdisciplinary committees to foster understanding of certain social and economic concerns in order to make enlightened decisions. Fund the cultural sector, which generates an enormous number of jobs and always requires public funding (free of dogmatism of any kind) so it can expand. Agree to value people through culture, because there is definitely an impact that is undeniably felt through the understanding and perception that they have of themselves through it. Allow the people to have several perspectives on the world so they can then better understand it. Be as ethical as possible in our decision-making, which will result in putting Canada back on the list of model countries and not on the list of rogue nations. Listen to Canadians. No longer pass legislation in a despicable, stubborn, regressive and dangerous way.

#### 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?*

Value the expertise of Canadians and Quebecers. Fund research in all disciplines in order to allow researchers to guide us towards new paths. Agree to spend more on the forestry, cultural, aerospace, textile and agricultural sectors to create jobs and particularly to restore our food self-sufficiency. Put more money into post-secondary education to allow people to raise their standard of living, earn better incomes and pay more taxes. Agree to higher tax rates for foreign corporations in order to redistribute the wealth among all Canadians. Establish study and employment programs for Aboriginal reserves in order to assist these peoples and better integrate them into our current economic situation.

#### 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?*

If you are delaying retirement to age 67, do not proceed with the laying off of thousands of people. Do not increase the taxpayers' burden in this way, it is illogical. Accept a percentage of immigrants that would qualify for the sectors affected by shortages. Create more back-to-study programs targeting

these sectors.

#### **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?*

#### **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?*

Cultural industries, sectors such as the food, agronomic, Aboriginal, fisheries, research, seasonal workers, new immigrants, etc. One of the major problems is the government's lack of understanding of these sectors and a certain conservative ideology that only focuses on immediate profit to the detriment of what is built over the long term. Agree to finance certain sectors that may be outside of your electoral base. Do not ignore what is unprofitable, and concerns that require time, understanding, dialog and compromise.