

## 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?*

Further and most recent corporate tax cuts seem unnecessary as they don't appear to have resulted in any job creation. Instead, they have likely helped to limit the income the Federal government has access to. Instead, a focus on infrastructure development and improvement: not merely the classic, traditional physical infrastructure, but development of an information infrastructure to support high tech business and consumers going forward.

#### 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?*

Government's job is not to pick winning and losing companies or industries, but to foster a market environment that offers opportunity in general. To this end, additional corporate tax cuts, which only assist companies already making profits, seem unnecessary. Innovation grants and support to assist companies in modernization and increasing global competitiveness. Modest personal tax cuts would allow individuals to put more money back into the economy supporting those companies deserving of their increased business.

#### 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?*

While health care is extremely important for an aging population, more programs should be developed to address health education, prevention, and healthy living. On the order of skills shortages, streamlining of regulations and certification processes could assist in increasing the skill and labour pools in health care areas.

#### 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?*

Support of high tech industry, infrastructure, and solutions. A targeted immigration strategy that will address specific shortfalls in skill zones and labour markets.

## **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?*

Generally, the primary tax burden on the middle and lower classes. As previously suggested, modest tax cuts for individuals will increase available funds for these groups. Support for new immigrants in terms of language and cultural adaptation. Aboriginal reserve conditions across the country - a consultative attitude from the Federal Government to make actual improvements in conditions and self determination. Post secondary education - Federal leadership in establishing standards and consistency of delivery and funding. Youth unemployment - establishment of apprenticeship and employment programs targetting youth specifically.