

## 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?*

1. Education and research. Financing research in all academic fields, economics to pure mathematics. Promoting quality education in grade K-12. 2. Promotion of arts and culture. Financing for arts education, dance, opera and orchestras. Cutting into either of these will be only negative for economic growth.

#### 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?*

Careers in education and environment. By education, I mean quality education, which this country is beginning to severely lack.

#### 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?*

A promotion of trades, introducing such programs in high school (which is already done to an extent, but could be much improved). Education in university is not the correct venue for most. Most graduate with a bachelor's in anything, achieving a C average and never having had the opportunity to really engage. Trades need to be discussed as an equally beneficial and challenging opportunity, perhaps even more in cases. Programs such as LinkAges in Alberta, and other generation-bridging programs across Canada need to be encouraged, funded, and supported. Younger generations volunteering with the aging population is also necessary. Look into LinAges, they are solving problems you want to solve.

#### 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?*

Promote smaller businesses, local markets, regulations on not out-sourcing, keep the work and products in Canada. Promotes the job market, productivity, and reduces the carbon footprint and doesn't employ un-fairtrade labour.

## **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 arts community! Cutting funds towards the arts is counter-productive, and the terrible consequences of such actions will be seen in the coming years, and in the worst ways possible. The environment needs to be taken care of. We can no longer promote the economy at the expense of the environment. It needs to stop.