

## 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) Reduce the expense accounts of elected government officials, out of respect for citizens. 2) Encourage and provide assistance to strong start-up companies that are reviving the economy locally, instead of multinationals. 3) Encourage/better fund social agencies that raise awareness about and prevent costly long-term problems (especially in health, either physical or mental). 4) Favour local products, local entrepreneurship and local trade (buy local) rather than importing, which enables more Canadians to work and, generally, for better wages. 5) Limited credit to avoid a speculative economic recovery.

#### 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?*

1) Start by seeing what is being done here before going and looking abroad. Strengthen our economy on a small scale, one citizen at a time, one entrepreneur at a time. 2) Favour the long term over the short term. For example, do not create 3,000 jobs to operate a factory abroad, only to have the factory leave the country afterwards (resulting in the loss of 3,000 jobs). Instead, create here what will be in demand and then exported. 3) Favour quality and build a strong international reputation.

#### 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?*

FOR HEALTH 1) Improve the system of follow-up / treatment / at-home support (informal caregivers, multifunctional medical staff) to free up hospitals. 2) Permit licensed practical nurses everywhere to have more responsibilities under the supervision of an attending doctor responsible in cases of simple follow-up (diabetes, high blood pressure, and so on). Like in Ontario where clinics are run in large part by nurses. This takes pressure off the system and frees up doctors for the real major health problems.  
FOR THE LABOUR FORCE 1) Improve academic training to improve people's skill set. 2) Permit / encourage / subsidize professional development and the specialization of employees and businesses. 3) Increase the status of education and increase the percentage of graduates by making education more accessible to everyone. 4) Give scholarships and more advantages to those who attend school for a long time (who, in any event, are the ones who pay the most taxes, so repay this type of assistance the most once they have graduated). 5) Increase the value of successfully completing and pursuing years of study. 6) Favour mentoring and internships in businesses.

#### **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?*

- 1) Entice foreign investors to set up for the long term and not just for the duration of a project.
- 2) Encourage businesses to hire more young enthusiastic workers who will be the most skilled tomorrow (and who will support the economy, despite the aging of the population).
- 3) Give preference to the creation of jobs in the long term, to businesses that want to set up here.
- 4) Favour a type of economic protectionism, a more self-managed structure, and build accountability with businesses with respect to their social role.

#### **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?*

- 1) Social agencies: they do work on the ground, invaluable prevention, awareness and intervention work directly in the communities. We should be thanking them and encouraging these initiatives, rather than cutting their budget. They diminish problems considerably, intervene before the State does and manage crisis situations. They make a better feeling of security possible and have a more humane approach.
- 2) Artists: They are recognized abroad and attract the attention of other countries to our culture. They help tourism, seasonal jobs. They bring in a significant amount of money (directly or indirectly). Lucrative and a good calling card for other countries.