

## 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?*

Continued or enhanced support of arts and culture. In addition to the social benefits, the tax revenue from taxes on ticket sales etc and personal taxes on those employed in this sector more than offset any grants or tax concessions given out. The spin off employment benefits from the film industry in particular are greater than any other industry in the country. Support for the arts should be almost a "no brainer"

##### 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?*

Support for research and development and post secondary education will reap the greatest benefits in the future. In particular support for alternate energy sources should be increased. This can be achieved by reducing tax concessions presently available to the oil and gas sector.

##### 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?*

Increased support for apprenticeship programs. Removal of obstacles to foreign doctors practicing in Canada. Eliminating income taxes on earnings of seniors working past the retirement age to encourage their continued participation in the work force.

##### 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?*

The medical system faces the greatest problems. The prescription drug system should have a nationalized purchasing system to achieve the greatest saving in bulk buying. Exclusive patent times should be reduced. All medical personnel working in the private sector should be required to work at least 25% of their hours in the public system in order to retain their licence. Medical staff working in designated remote or underserved areas should have their basic tax rates reduced. Offset this by

increasing the tax rates for private for profit medical facilities. Drastically simplify the tax system, particularly for individuals. Increase business oversight and environmental protection A flat one half of one percent tax on all GROSS business revenues