

## 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) Institute a financial transaction tax on the purchase and sale of stocks, bonds, commodities, unit trusts, mutual funds, and derivatives. 2) Eliminate all federal subsidies for fossil fuel extraction and transportation. 3) Promote the creation of provincially owned banks, similar to the Alberta Treasury Branches but with more better controls to prevent political influence on lending policies.

#### 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?*

The small business sector is much better at creating jobs than large corporations. Put priority on programs for small Canadian owned businesses at stop subsidizing multinational corporations. Make energy conservation and renewable energy development a top national priority to improve competitiveness of business and debt pressure on consumers, and increase the resiliency and sustainability of the Canadian economy.

#### 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?*

1) Restart the Skill Worker immigration program and remove the silly 1,000 participant cap. Put fast-track program in place to re-certify skilled workers and professionals to Canadian standards. 2) Put significant effort into preventative health care measures for all citizens (diet, exercise, community-based services) to lower health care costs now and in the future. 3) Revamp and adequately fund Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. 4) Programs with trade unions and community colleges to increase enrollment in trade skill classes.

#### 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) Aim programs (aide, stimulation, loan, tax incentives) only for small and medium sized Canadian owned business. Large corporations are poor innovators. 2) Get Canada in front on sustainability and green energy and product development. All the best energy systems are designed and built in Europe or Asia - not in Canada. 3) Stop cutting and spend more on science education in general and scientific expertise in Canadian government and institutions.

## 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?*

All Canadians are hurt by the failure of Government to act fairly and responsibly 1) Clean up the absolute travesty of government budgeting (Public Works and Government Services Canada, and Department of National Defense. 2) Clear accountability and consequences for malfeasance on the part of any and all civil service, RCMP, government officials and staffs. Favoritism, collusion, deceit of the public by stonewalling FOI requests, political interference and outright corruption are rampant across all levels of Canadian government. 3) Revamp election system - proportional representation not 'first past the post.' Improve the health and well being of all Canadians 1) Increase spending on education, environmental protection, and social services funded by a financial transaction tax. 2) Health tax on processed foods and beverages based on corn sugar and salt content (same per unit fee collected as that for bottle deposit). Funds used only for support of health services.