

## Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)

### Pre-budget consultations 2012

## Joanne Shaw

### 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?*

There must be a way to support the wages of the middle class and all working people. If this is not done there will be no one able to purchase products made/developed/extracted in Canada

#### 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?*

Give tax breaks to businesses that actually employ Canadians and impose fines on those that move Canadian jobs off shore. Support research and development in basic sciences, social issues, technology; support findings and innovations; and help find markets for innovative products and services.

#### 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?*

First off, Canadians should be informed on what moving the OAS from 65 to 67 means. Does it mean that tax credits given to those over 65 disappear? Does it mean people in Ontario will not be eligible for the Ontario drug benefit plan until 67? Does it mean those with integrated pensions will lose the amount equivalent to OAS at age 65 without being able to make it up? Needed skills change over time: there should be funding for updating one's skills. More research should be done on aging to examine how to mitigate the effects of aging. There should be a national strategy to better utilize older peoples' accumulated knowledge as they age and they develop physical disabilities.

#### 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?*

See answer to # 3.

## **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?*

We are rapidly losing the middle class. We need this middle class to ensure a prosperous society.