

## 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?*

Investment in infrastructure projects is important to keep the economy moving. Improved investment in social programs and job specific training is important to make sure that Canadians get the opportunity to work in this country.

#### 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 Federal Government should facilitate talks between the BC Government and Enbridge to ensure that a pipeline is built from the Oilsands to Kitimat. To be successful, this project must be built in a manner that prevents leaks and other environmental damage, offers employment initiatives for first nations workers, fosters apprenticeships for young Canadians, and offers a long term income stream for the province of BC. Further to this the Federal Government should push Oilsands producers to refine bitumen in Canada.

#### 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?*

The Federal Government must take steps to make the workforce as efficient as possible. This means introducing tax incentives to workers who must travel to other provinces for work. The Government should begin offering employment training in areas of the economy that are experiencing skills shortages. The federal government must also begin offering skills based training for First Nations workers (the unemployment rate amongst First Nations workers is a black eye for Canada)

#### 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?*

The Federal Government should offer low interest investment loans for employers that wish to upgrade equipment and can demonstrate that the upgrade will lead to better efficiency.

## **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?*

Working families are facing the biggest challenges today. With stagnant wages, high unemployment, and the risk of escalating inflation, the Federal Government must take steps to ease the burden on low income families. Over many years, various levels of government have lowered income and consumption based taxes. It is my belief that consumption based taxes should be lowered and replaced with a higher level of income tax. This would have the effect of allowing families to buy the items that they need to raise children without being punished with a consumption tax and allow those people that earn higher incomes to contribute more to society.