

problems has remained constant.

Compared to the previously-mentioned issues, only a small number of Canadians report other issues such as government, environment or social problems as their top of mind concern.

In essence, Canadians continue to express the greatest concern about those areas in which Canada has traditionally had a high foreign policy profile, such as in maintaining world peace and assisting Third World nations.

## **B. Most Serious Issue Facing The World (Aided)**

When respondents were asked to identify the most serious concern facing the world from a list of five issues suggested to them, once again, no consensus was achieved. As shown in Figure 1, however, a plurality of Canadians said poverty and hunger (39%) followed by the arms race (24%). It is notable that the order is reversed from the "top of mind" responses. This is due to a large number of respondents who did not cite a world hunger or poverty-related issue on the unaided question but did so on the aided question. This would suggest that for a number of people, the threat of war can be the thing which is most worrisome to them on a day-to-day basis, but when the plight of starving people is raised in contrast, they are prepared to acknowledge that it may be more pressing at the moment.

On the whole, however, Canadians who initially cited world hunger and poverty and nuclear war as top of mind concerns were more likely to select the same choices again to the aided question, which would indicate that a large number of Canadians are committed to viewing these issues as major global problems. These concerns are consistent with findings of six months ago.

The level of concern expressed about economic problems also increased in response to the aided question and has marginally increased from six months ago (from 20% to 22%). This change may in part be due to a slight lessening of attention or focus on a variety of problems which occupied the world stage more visibly last year (e.g., terrorism, East-West tensions, arms negotiations).