

promises – 18 percent "a lot less likely". As would be expected, further analysis shows that most of these voters are already opposition party supporters. (Table 4)

THE PUBLIC AGENDA

The late May-early June National Angus Reid/Southam News Poll also included an ongoing monitor of the public policy issues of most concern to Canadians. Those surveyed were posed an "open-ended" question at the beginning of the interview asking them to name the issues which they believe are the most important for Canada today. This probing yielded the following responses, presented here in descending order of their level of total mentions: (Tables 5A & 5B)

- ♦ **Jobs/Unemployment** – The unemployment situation remains at the top of Canadians' policy issues agenda. This issue was cited "top-of-mind" by 45 percent of Canadians surveyed, up 5 points from April but comparable to the level of mentions recorded in earlier soundings taken this year. Mentions reached the two-thirds level in Atlantic Canada (67%), in sharpest contrast to Alberta (31%).

- ♦ **National Unity/Quebec's Future/The Constitution** – Four in ten (41%) polled Canadians said that national unity/Quebec's future (and to a far lesser degree, the Canadian Constitution) is the most pressing concern facing the country right now. This is up sharply (13 points) from the April sounding, and is the highest such total mentions recorded this