

Overall, Canadians appear satisfied with Canada's role in assisting Third World nations, and would prefer that the country remain among the more generous givers in the future. However, there has been a marginal shift in attitudes over the last six months, as a larger proportion of persons are saying that Canada is not spending enough on foreign aid programs.

C. Attitudes Toward the Focus of Aid

Canadians were asked a series of questions regarding their attitudes toward the focus of aid in Canada and in other parts of the world. To begin with, it is important to note that the notion of charity beginning at home has considerable currency with people but is not inconsistent with a desire to help people elsewhere. The majority (79%) of respondents said they often wonder if we should not help the poor here in Canada, rather than people living in other countries. Almost all persons of lower socio-economic status, such as the poorly educated (88%) and those with household incomes below \$10,000 (87%), agreed with this statement. It is notable that while one in five Canadians disagreed with this statement, those who are very interested in world affairs (28%) and who consider themselves to be very well informed about international issues (29%) were more likely to do so.

Although three out of four people wonder if aid should not be focussed on the Canadian poor, most (68%) also believe that "when Canadians give more to help relieve hunger in other countries, they don't necessarily give less to help the needy in Canada."

As shown in Table 9, attitudes toward Canadian assistance to poor countries are linked to perceptions of the amount available for Canadians in need. Those who believe not enough is spent on foreign aid are most likely to say that more spending will not erode assistance for Canadians while those who perceive that too much is spent on international assistance are more likely to voice concern that this relationship does exist.