

## CANADIAN PRAIRIES REGIONAL OFFICE



## HEIFER AND PARTNERS ENGAGED IN LEARNING ACROSS THE PRAIRIES

February and March saw several learning-focused events take place in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. **The Growing Local, Getting Vocal Conference** (hosted by the Manitoba Food Charter) was held Feb 19-21 in Winnipeg. This event was sold out with approximately 300 participants and more than 70 people on the waiting list. The conference included a Culinary Tour of Manitoba, a Youth Gathering, GMO debate, approximately 40 workshop sessions, and free Food on Film series.

Heifer's Canadian Prairies Region hosted a **Farmer Mentorship Learning Exchange** in Winnipeg on February 21st. Over twenty people from three project groups (two in Ontario and one in Manitoba) gathered to discuss best practices and things to watch for when nurturing the farmer-intern relationship.

Heifer's Canadian Prairies region facilitated a **Shared Leadership workshop**, which was held in Roblin March 11-13. Thirty-three participants from Heifer projects in the prairies, as well as Ontario and BC, gathered to gain a deeper understanding and practical application of collective leadership. Each organization/project group developed a take-home plan to build greater shared leadership capacity within their organizations and specific projects. As well, the workshop helped spur new relationships and strengthen existing ones amongst many like-minded folks.



During the third week of March (24-26), **Heifer Canada hosted a Food Sovereignty Forum** in Saskatoon. The objective was to analyze and build a shared understanding of Food Sovereignty in the Canadian context based on the 6 pillars (see text box) of Food Sovereignty agreed upon at NYÉLÉNI a Via Campesina forum held in Sélingué, Mali in 2007. It is anticipated this event will provide guidance to our future work in Canada. It also more closely linked Heifer with numerous partners and collaborators in the collective effort to create positive social change.

1. **Focuses on Food for People**
2. **Value Food Providers**
3. **Localises Food Systems**
4. **Puts Control locally**
5. **Builds Knowledge and Skills**
6. **Works with Nature**

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

**PROJECT PARTNERS MEETING**— June 12-14, 2009 in Clearwater MB—hosted by The Harvest Moon Local Food Initiative



**FY09-2 Progress & Financial Reports**—Templates sent out in April, reports due to your field staff by July 10th



Think about growing your own food. What would that mean? Fresh healthy lettuce, tomatoes and spinach can be grown in containers or in a very small plot. Kids love to get their hands dirty. Gardens can bring families and communities together to plant, grow and eat. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mp34cEwguhw&feature=related>

**Be the change—grow a salad or salsa or rosemary  
take the thyme in 2009!**

