



*Photo - Courtesy of Dennis Bruvén*



## Myra Pearson Tribal Chairperson Spirit Lake Tribe

Myra Pearson became the Tribal Chairperson for the Spirit Lake Tribe for the first time in years 1997-1999. She then finished out a term for a prior chairman in years 2005-2007. In 2007 she ran in the Spirit Lake Tribal Chairman's election and was voted in for a four year term finishing in 2011. After a break in tribal government and the encouragement of the people Myra ran for the Chairman's seat in 2015, was elected and her term will end in 2019.

Chairwoman Pearson is active in many boards throughout Indian Country; she is the Chairwoman for the Great Plains Indian Gaming Association and she has been the Chairwoman for the United Tribes Technical College Education Board from 2006-2011. Chairwoman Pearson is a member of the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman's Health Board.

Chairwoman Pearson has been a champion for Native American issues within the Great Plains Region, she has testified numerous times before Congress on a wide range of issues which significantly impact the daily lives of the Native Americans not only from Spirit Lake but for all Native Americans within the Great Plains Region.

Under Chairwoman Pearson's Leadership the Spirit Lake Tribe has undergone significant governmental changes; she has promoted equality and has always been fair and unbiased. She sees the Spirit Lake Tribe as a family and has fiercely protected the tribe as such. She has been sought out by other tribal leaders and tribal members for advice and consultation. She happily gives her recommendations based on her past experiences and outcomes.

Chairwoman Pearson's legacy will continue, and hopefully the up and coming leaders will emulate her service to the Spirit Lake Tribe and to Indian Country.