The late Tsimilano often invited us to “form a circle and join hands in prayer. In joining hands, hold your left palm upward to reach back to grasp the teachings of the Ancestors. Hold your right palm downward to pass these teachings on to the younger generation. In this way, the teachings of the Ancestors continue and the circle of human understanding and caring grows stronger.”

The teachings of respect, relationships, responsibility, and reverence are offered here so that they may continue and strengthen our circle of understanding and caring.

Longhouse Teachings: Respect, Relationships, Responsibility and Reverence

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Responsibility: When we understand what enhances well-being and what diminishes it, we can take responsibility for strengthening it. We honour the teaching of responsibility by:
- Modeling and sharing protocol with others
- Caring for ourselves, others, the Longhouse and the environment.
- Serving as witnesses in the unfolding life of the Longhouse
- Using resources appropriately

Reverence is the meeting of respect and the sacred. We honour the teaching or reverence by:
- Serving others for the benefit of all of our relations.
- Developing our own gifts and facilitating that development in others.
- Being grateful for our lives and the lives of all in our circle of relations.
- Being respectful of the spiritual realm and its place in learning.

Respect forms the foundation for other values. Respect begins with self and ripples out to embrace family, community, nations, the natural world, and the creator. We honour the teaching of respect by:
- Acknowledging the land and the Coast Salish and Musqueam peoples of the land.
- Maintaining a safe, healthy inclusive environment free of alcohol and drugs, discrimination and harassment.
- Caring for our home and the surrounding environment.
- Begin sensitive to the needs of other users.

Relationships speaks to our connection to all of creation and the creator. We honour the teaching of “all my relations” by:
- Valuing the gifts and teachings which come to us through our relations with those of different ages, ancestry, colour, family, status, marital status, physical or mental disability, political belief, place of origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and unrelated criminal conviction.
- Interacting with discretion
- Considering the needs of Elders and children in our actions and activities.
- Welcoming visitors with honour and consideration.