

## **tə cecəw** (The Beach)

Musqueam offer this blessing. **xəʔəmət ct ceʔ tə məsteyəxʷ**. We will care about the people.

All humans are related. We are one extended family. You may not be Musqueam; but, because you live on Musqueam land, you live in a Musqueam Community. You are our relatives; we have obligations to you.

We ask you to share more than our land. We also ask you to share our law. From Northern California to the Alaska panhandle the Coastal Tribes of the North West Coast shared a belief known as the Soul Canoe. This belief is still Musqueam law.

The Soul Canoe is a metaphor about the journey of our immortal soul through eternity. We have been reincarnated many times, and will be reincarnated many more. We make that journey in our Soul Canoe.

Only you travel in your Soul Canoe. No one else can enter that sacred vessel. Only you direct the journey of your Soul Canoe.

When people gather, we each bring our Soul Canoe. The place we meet becomes our family beach. On that beach we share the warmth of loving hearts through words and advice.

What we share on that sacred beach is offered as a paddle for your Soul Canoe. Take these paddles on your journey. Use them when you need a strong life direction.

Consider this home your family beach. Share good advice and respect with your family, with your neighbours, on this beach. Each day here begins your new days' journey.