The caption below was received from the Director of the Longhouse, Tina Kuckkahn-Miller on 04/04/2016 in preparation for our MPA 2016 graduation. Scheduled to be held at the Longhouse, should any questions come up in the future in regards to protocol at the Longhouse we can use the below caption as our reasoning for not conducting an invitation/welcome ceremony.

Longhouses are governed by the rules of each community in which it is located--for us that's our Evergreen community. As a result, we collaboratively developed our own protocols such as the prohibition of alcohol and drug use in and around the building, the establishment of annual cleansing ceremonies, protocols around ceremonial use of the fire pits, etc. These can be found in the Longhouse User's Guide on our website, too.

The people who gave us this sage advice included traditional longhouse leaders Bruce Subiyay Miller (Skokomish) and Connie McCloud (Puyallup). Makah elders John and Edie Hottowe also advised on governance and protocols. David Whitener Sr. from Squaxin Island helped build the Longhouse and, along with Lummi elder, Pauline Hillaire (sister of Mary Ellen) helped determine the name House of Welcome. Vi Hilbert (Upper Skagit) translated the name House of Welcome into Sgwigwialt.  So those are some pretty heavy hitters in our region who helped establish the cultural and spiritual foundations upon which we continue to do our work.