



The Mamingwey Burn Survivor Society held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Burn Survivor gathering on October 26 and 27, 2012 at the Canad Inns Polo Park Hotel. The theme this year was “**Triumph in Recovery - Focusing on You**”.

Almost 100 burn survivors, family members, HSC staff and fire fighters from Manitoba and beyond attended the two-day conference.



The keynote speaker, **James Bosch**, is a burn survivor from San Francisco, California. At the age of 8 months he was severely burned by scalding water when a humidifier fell in his crib. Since that day, burn surgery and the challenges that scars add to emotional development, were intricate parts of his life. He has taken this experience and used it to help others accept and heal past their burn injuries. James has years of experience working with burn survivors and their families, is an international speaker and educator on burn recovery and holds a masters in counseling psychology. James gave a powerful and honest presentation entitled “Remembering What I Forgot” as he shared his life journey with us. He also offered insight and tools to assist burn survivors and their families cope with their injuries in a second presentation “Get Your Play Back!”

Survivors were free to share their journeys with each other in several sharing circles, which are considered a most valuable and healing experience. Family and friends of the survivors also had a chance to share with each other.

For the first time ever, Mamingwey hosted a Children’s program for children who have been burned as well as their siblings and children of parents who are burned. The Fire Safety Trailer was available to all conference attendees to provide suggestions for home safety and fire prevention.



There was also a very informative presentation by Dr Sarvesh Logsetty when he reviewed the extensive research being done in Manitoba on various aspects of burn care and answered many questions from the audience. Three local burn survivors discussed their experiences of being burned as children and growing up with that experience.

In keeping with our theme, we also had a financial presentation given by the Blueprint group as well as a fashion show during our closing dinner. Many of our local survivors took to the runway to show off glamorous evening attire!

The Mamingwey Burn Survivor Society would like to thank our sponsors: The Firefighters Burn Fund, the HSC Foundation, as well as Manitoba Hydro and the many others who contributed generously to make this event possible. We are already busy at work planning the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Mamingwey Burn Survivor conference for October of 2013. For more information, please visit our website at [www.mamingwey.ca](http://www.mamingwey.ca) or email Barbara-Anne Hodge at [bahodge@shaw.ca](mailto:bahodge@shaw.ca)

