Canadian Burn Survivors Community



What's Inside?

- Past & Upcoming Events
- Research Articles
- Important Information
- How to Stay Connected

Welcome

A message from our Chair

Hi everyone, welcome to our 2024 Fall - Winter Newsletter.

Thank-you to all our volunteer board members for all their work to ensure our bi-weekly Wednesday Chats that help burn survivors, family, and caregivers with peer support.

The next in-person Canadian Burn Survivor Conference is scheduled for April 30 to May 3, 2025 in Victoria, BC as hosted by the BC Professional Firefighters Burn Fund.

As the conference is approaching, it is time to submit your nominations for our CBSC Awards for Peer Support, Burn Care and Fire Fighters & Builders Awards. Please check this out in this newsletter or on our website.

Please enjoy the newsletter and thank-you our Communications Committee Chair Victoria Vass and her team for all their work putting it together.

Michael Cook
CBSC Chair

Season's Greetings	3
Upcoming Conference	4
CBSC Awards Nomination Form	5
The Mamingwey Burn Society Conference Recap & Personal Experience	6-9
Virtual Programs	10
Research Based Articles	11-14
Burn Survivor Book Review	15
Local Burn Community Events & Programs	16-17
Holiday Recipe	18
Positive New Year's Resolutions	19
Get Involved	20-21



Season's Greetings

Dear Canadian Burn Survivor Community,

As the holiday season approaches, we want to take a moment to send our warmest wishes to each of you. This season is a time for reflection, celebration, and connection, and we're grateful for the strength, resilience, and compassion that each of you brings to our community.

Whether you are spending the holidays with loved ones, taking time for self-care, or finding comfort in quiet moments, know that you are not alone. We are with you in spirit, cheering on your journey, and honouring the courage you show every day.

May this season bring you peace, joy, and warmth. Let's look ahead to a new year filled with hope, healing, and togetherness.

With heartfelt wishes and gratitude,

Daniel Nguyen

On Behalf of The Board of Directors of the Canadian Burn Survivor Community





Upcoming Conference: April 30-May 3, 2025



Bi-Annual Canadian Burn Survivors Conference

- Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St., Victoria, British Columbia
- Apply for financial support on our website!
 www.canadianburnsurvivors.ca/financialsupport
- More information to come in the new year.

CBSC Awards Nomination Form

The Canadian Burn Survivors Community Awards are given out bi-annually to deserving recipients in the following categories. The winners are determined by the CBSC Board of Directors from nominations from the community.

Peer Support Award

- To recognize an individual or group who have gone above and beyond in supporting burn survivors and their families.
- Target Burn Survivors and family members of burn survivors.

Burn Care Award

- To recognize healthcare staff who have gone above and beyond in supporting burn survivors and their families.
- Target Doctors, Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Physio Therapists.

Fire Fighters and Builders Award

- To recognize individuals in the firefighting and builders sectors who have gone above and beyond in supporting burn survivors and their families.
- Target Firefighters, Builders from public and private sector.

Nomination Process for All Awards

- CBSC members will nominate an individual or group closing date February 28, 2025.
- Board executives will review and determine the winners during a conference call in the spring, to be announced at the next Burn Conference.
- Winners will be advised by the CBSC Board in writing and asked to keep it confidential until announced at the conference.
- Winner to be given an engraved plaque 8 x10.
- Winner of each award to have their registration fees covered for the next conference

Award:	Peer Support Award,	Burn Care Award,	Fire Fighter and Builder Award
Reasons	for the Nomination:		
Name of I	Nominator:	Email:	

_Submit to Michael Cook: m.cook@mycbsc.ca



The Mamingwey Burn Society Conference Recap

The Mamingwey Burn Society Inc. held a successful in-person conference on Oct 24-26, 2024 at the CanadInns Polo Park Hotel in Winnipeg, MB. A reception night on Thursday was held at the Manitoba Museum, with guest appearance from our very own pirate! The full two-day long conference was attended by over 65 people, with many familiar faces and some first-time attendees. Our theme for the conference this year was "We All Belong".

Our conference kicked off with keynote speaker Dr. Lise Deguire and her talk on "Psychological Resilience". Severely burned at the age of 4, she spent many years in hospital undergoing multiple reconstructive surgeries. This while navigating through life with outrageously flawed, gifted, and iconoclastic parents. She details her story of survival and triumph in her multiple award-winning memoir "Flashback Girl: Lessons on Resilience from a burn Survivor".





Nancy Coutris, a clinical dietician, spoke on "Nutrition after a Burn Injury" from her years of experience working in the burn program at the Health Sciences Centre. Megan Sodomsky did a special presentation on behalf of our sponsor Molnlycke on advances in medical wound care and dressings. Bronwyn Fontaine wrapped up our first day with her talk on how to navigate feelings of guilt and shame on our road to healing. Bronwyn is an Occupational Therapist and co-owner of Middle Path Therapy, where she specializes in supporting families and young people to acquire essential skills and insights to build a meaningful and fulfilling life.

Day 2 of the conference welcomed back Dr. Deguire to speak on disfigurement and how people with visible differences are harmfully portrayed on screen. She works tirelessly with the American Burn Association to advocate for accurate representation in the media. Sandi Mitchell, with her 40+ years of clinical nursing and leadership experience, spoke on caregiver burnout and how important it is for us to make time to care for ourselves. Our final speaker of the conference was Danielle Harling, an occupational therapist at the Children's Hospital, and her talk on chronic pain. Danielle helped differentiate types of pain and provided practical tools and strategies on how to manage it.

There were panels held on both days and truly were a highlight of the conference. The panels were made up of burn survivors, a mother of a pediatric burn survivor, a child of a survivor, and a mother of a burn victim that did not survive his injuries. All shared their unique experiences and journey through healing and finding community.



Sharing circles were held for survivors, family members and friends, and health care professionals. Highlights from past conferences and 2024's Burn Camp Phoenix for youth were on display, as well as a silent auction for attendees to partake in. One attendee provided the following feedback after the conference: "I was impacted by the openness and honesty of all participants. The vulnerability was eye opening. I am juiced up and ready to tackle my challenges because of what I got from this experience."

This conference could not have happened without the help of our tireless volunteers and to all those who gathered. We are excited for the next year when we can come together for more sharing and healing. If you would like to learn more about our conference or about the Mamingwey Burn Society, please contact Hon Ha O'Donovan at honha@mamingwey.ca or visit https://mamingwey.ca.

My Experience in Winnipeg

Submitted by Hakiem Atilier

After speaking in two presentations on October 24, I flew from Fort McMurray to Winnipeg via Calgary. I thank the company I work for paying for my flight to/from Winnipeg. I landed in Winnipeg past 11 pm, and by the time I made it to the hotel, it was midnight. Kyle and Barb knew I was coming, so young Kyle waited for me till I arrived.

In the morning, I met the CBSC family. Kyle and Mellissa from Alberta, Sandy and Mike from BC and the Manitoba team.

Now, this was my second burn survivors conference that I attended. I am a recent survivor. My workplace accident was in March 2022, but the influence of the burn community on my journey has been incredible. The bi-weekly chats and the online conferences left their marks, but nothing compares to the impact of in-person conferences. We cry and laugh together. We eat, drink, and play together. We chat and argue till midnight together.

My experience in Calgary last year lifted me from a burn victim to a burn survivor. And Winnipeg was no different.

The speakers were awesome. I learned a lot from the panels as well. Survivors, and family members, with diverse backgrounds. And my biggest source of strength, survivors sharing circles. I gained new tools to use on my journey. I met new people, and I got to hug those I met online. I was, also, inspired by the resiliency and courage of my fellow survivors.

When I left Winnipeg that Sunday morning, I was a man with a renewed mission. My mission was to live to the fullest, and to be a positive impact in my life and the lives of those around me.



Two of the most memorable moments for me were:

- 1. First was a Q and A during a session about mental stress. A survivor, who I learned later, had a brain tumor wanted to share how she feels about the pain she had. Though she was having difficulty speaking, I understood what she was trying to say. I believe the whole room did as well. She could have stayed silent, but she wanted to share. And in doing so despite her limitations, she lifted many who are along the same journey as she is. I am grateful to have witnessed her speaking, and I will remember her for the rest of my journey. She is an inspiration to all of us.
- 2. My second memorable moment was late on Friday evening, a few of us were in a room chatting, and the chat turned to where do we get the strength to move forward as burn survivors. Some argue that we move forward because of our inner strength to overcome struggles, and some thought having divine help lead us to overcome our any obstacle in our lives. We had a meaningful and respectful argument. And both sides got to see the other point of view. Now I believe in the Lord, and I believe that having Him in my life let me to where I am today.



My Experience in Winnipeg

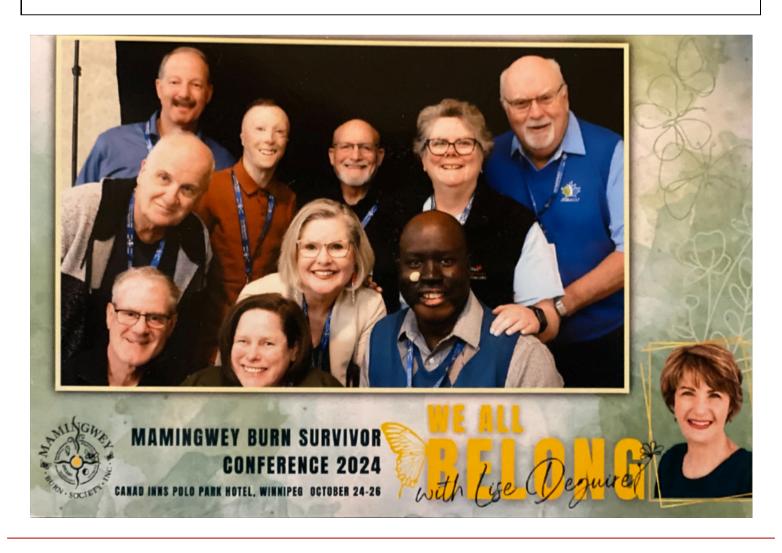
Submitted by Hakiem Atilier

I can write a lot about my experience in Winnipeg, but one thing I recommend is, if you have a chance to attend an in-person conference, go for it. It is scary at the beginning if it is your first time, but that feeling won't last long. Everyone attending is on a similar journey, and we are all trying to help each other move forward. We don't promise everything will be alright after attending a conference, but we hope you can get some tools to help you on your journey.

Now you do not have to wait long for the next in-person conference. The next conference is in Victoria at the end of April 2025. Come and join us. You will not regret it. If you do not find it useful, I will give you a hug. The link to the conference should be somewhere in this news letter. In the meantime, join us on our bi-weekly chat. Though it is not the same as an in-person conference, it's a great resource for having a community around a common cause. I am looking forward to seeing you in Victoria.

Merry Christmas

Hakiem



Virtual Programs



CBSC Peer Support Group: Biweekly on Wednesday's 5pm PST | 8PM EST

January 1, 15, 29 February 12, 26 March 12, 26

Email Barb b.hodge@mycbsc.ca www.canadianburnsurvivors.ca/event-calendar



Loved Ones & Caregivers Support Group: Last Thursday of each month 4pm PST | 7PM EST

January 30 February 27 March 27

Email Victoria at ourlifeafterburns@gmail.com



Foothills Hospital Group Meetings (Hybrid): 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 6:30pm MT

Email burn.survivors@albertahealthservices.ca www.cfbts.org



CBSC Virtual Conferences

Email Heather for questions or if you'd like to be a speaker. h.beveridge@mycbsc.ca

Understanding Burn Contracture Treatment: What You Need to Know for Better Recovery

Submitted by Retaj Ramadan

Burn contractures are a type of thick, mature scar that often develops after a significant burn injury. These scars can tighten over time, restricting movement and impairing function. This becomes especially problematic when contractures form over key joints, such as those in the hands, making everyday tasks more difficult. Effectively managing and minimizing burn contractures is crucial for restoring mobility, improving quality of life, and helping burn survivors regain independence in their daily activities. This article reviews treatment for burn contractures, equipping you with the basics in surgical and non surgical interventions. We also review tips for burn survivors, including at home self-care strategies for burn contractures.

What are burn contractures?

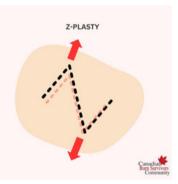
Burn contractures are tight, thickened areas of skin that can form after a severe burn injury.1 As the skin heals, the tissue can pull together, causing the skin to shrink and become less flexible. This tightening can limit movement, especially around joints, and may make it harder to perform everyday tasks like eating, dressing, or walking.1,2 Besides affecting physical function, burn contractures can also impact a person's appearance and self-esteem.3 The combined physical and emotional toll can make recovery feel even more overwhelming.

What are the surgical options for burn contracture management?

A review of the literature on burn contractures reveals that the majority of functionally impairing burn scar contractures are managed surgically.4

Z-plasty and local advancement flaps

For mild to moderate cases, techniques like Z-plasties and advancement flaps are commonly used. A Z-plasty is a surgical technique often used to improve the appearance and function of burn scars. The procedure involves making two triangular incisions in the shape of a "Z" over the contracted scar.5 By carefully repositioning the flaps of skin created by the incisions, the surgeon can release the tension in the scar tissue, allowing for better movement and flexibility in the affected area.



An advancement flap is another surgical technique used to treat burn contractures, especially in areas where the skin has tightened and restricted movement. In this procedure, the surgeon takes healthy skin from an adjacent area and moves it to cover the contracted scar. The skin is "advanced" or pulled directly from nearby tissue, which helps to relieve tension and restore flexibility to the affected area.5





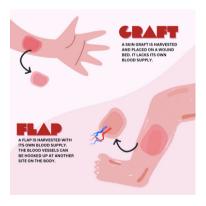
Understanding Burn Contracture Treatment: What You Need to Know for Better Recovery

Submitted by Retaj Ramadan

Flaps and skin grafts

For more severe cases, the use of flaps and skin grafts may be considered. Flaps are a surgical technique used to help heal areas of skin damaged by burns. It involves taking healthy skin and tissue from one part of the body and moving it to cover a burn wound.4 Unlike a skin graft, which involves removing skin (without its own blood supply) and placing it on a wound, a flap keeps its own blood supply connected, which can help it to heal better.4

An interesting finding from a recent review of burn contracture treatments is the ongoing debate between skin grafts and flap reconstructions. While skin grafts are commonly used because they require less tissue and are quicker to apply, they tend to have a higher rate of recurrent contractures over time. 4 In contrast, flap reconstructions offer a more durable solution but come with higher complexity and potential for more prolonged recovery.



What are the non surgical options for burn contractures?

Non surgical options including laser, topical therapy, or physical therapy are often used in conjunction with operative management.



Ablative CO2 laser

We have covered ablative CO2 laser in past articles on burn scar management. For burn contractures, which are ultimately severe burn scars, ablative CO2 laser shows excellent promise.6 An ablative CO2 laser uses a focused beam of carbon dioxide (CO2) light to precisely remove layers of damaged skin tissue. The laser energy heats and vaporizes the top layers of scar tissue, creating tiny, controlled wounds that stimulate the body's natural healing process. As the skin heals, new, healthier tissue forms, which can reduce the appearance of scars and improve skin texture. The CO2 laser also promotes collagen production, helping the skin regain more elasticity and flexibility.

Topical therapies

Topical therapies such as Nexobrid are early in use and not available everywhere quite yet. Nexobrid is a special enzyme treatment used to remove dead or damaged skin from burn wounds. When applied, it breaks down the burned tissue, making it easier to clean and heal the wound. This helps reduce the need for painful surgery and speeds up recovery. Topical therapies like Nexobrid also show excellent promise in decreasing the need for scar contracture release surgeries when used in acute burns.7

Physical therapy

Less invasive measures to manage burn contractures include physical therapy and occupational therapy. Physical therapy includes the spectrum of splinting, positioning, massage, stretching, and strengthening, and is often used in conjunction with operative measures.8 Research demonstrates the benefits of early physical therapy. In one center, applying early physical therapy to patients after burn injuries facilitated the recovery of hand functions.9

Understanding Burn Contracture Treatment: What You Need to Know for Better Recovery

Submitted by Retaj Ramadan

Tips for preventing and managing burn contractures

*Before trying any new treatment, be sure to consult with your healthcare team to ensure it's safe and appropriate for your unique situation.

1. Engage in stretching and daily range of motion exercises

Not only is stretching and daily exercise beneficial to overall health, but stretching affected burn contracture areas regularly helps to keep the skin and underlying tissues flexible, preventing the formation of tight scars that limit movement. For stretches specifically applicable for burn survivors, the University of Washington Department of Surgery YouTube page has a host of stretching videos. https://www.youtube.com/@UWDeptSurgery

2. Use of compression garments

Pressure garments help flatten and soften scars, reducing the risk of contractures. Guided by your healthcare provider and after initial healing is allowed to complete, wearing custom-fitted compression garments allows the application of continuous pressure to the scar area, which can help prevent excessive scarring and contracture formation.

3. Hydration and skin care

Keeping the skin moisturized can improve the elasticity of healing tissue and prevent it from becoming tight and brittle.

4. Proper sun care

UV rays can darken scars, making them more visible and potentially more prone to becoming tight. Always protect scars from the sun by covering them with clothing or applying broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when enjoying the sunlight.

Sources

- 1.Chapman TT. Burn scar and contracture management. J Trauma. 2007 Jun;62(6 Suppl). doi: 10.1097/TA.0b013e3180653a8a. PMID: 17556995.
- Larson DL, Abston S, Willis B, Linares H, Dobrkovsky M, Evans EB, Lewis SR. Contracture and scar formation in the burn patient. Clin Plast Surg. 1974 Oct;1(4):653-6. PMID: 4609674.
- 3. Parry I, Walker K, Niszczak J, Palmieri T, Greenhalgh D. Methods and tools used for the measurement of burn scar contracture. J Burn Care Res. 2010 Nov-Dec;31(6):888-903. doi: 10.1097/BCR.0b013e3181f9354f. PMID: 20859215.
- 4. Raborn LN, Janis JE. Prevention and Treatment of Burn Scar Contracture: A Practical Review. Plast Reconstr Surg Glob Open. 2024 Jan 19;12(1). doi: 10.1097/GOX.0000000000005333. PMID: 38250207; PMCID: PMC10798744.
- 5.Donelan MB, Buta MR. The Art of Local Tissue Rearrangements in Burn Reconstruction: Z-Plasty and More. Clin Plast Surg. 2024 Jul;51(3):329-347. doi: 10.1016/j.cps.2024.02.010. Epub 2024 Apr 6. PMID: 38789143.
- 6.Seago M, Shumaker PR, Spring LK, et al. Laser treatment of traumatic scars and contractures: 2020 International Consensus Recommendations. Lasers Surg Med. 2020;52:96–116.
- 7. Korzeniowski T, Grywalska E, Strużyna J, et al. Preliminary single-center experience of bromelain-based eschar removal in children with mixed deep dermal and full thickness burns. J Clin Med. 2022;11:4800.
- 8. Brown M, Chung KC. Postburn Contractures of the Hand. Hand Clin. 2017 May;33(2):317-331. doi: 10.1016/j.hcl.2016.12.005. Epub 2017 Mar 1. PMID: 28363298.
- 9. Ergani HM, Yalçın Topçuoğlu E, Yaşar B, Akgün AE, Acicbe O, Akın M, Erkin Ünlü R, Yastı AÇ. Physical Medicine Applications in Hand Burns: Treatment or Rehabilitation. J Burn Care Res. 2024 Jan 5;45(1):98-103. doi: 10.1093/jbcr/irad130. PMID: 37638523.









The Role of Dermatologists in Burn Care: Supporting Recovery and Quality of Life

Submitted by Aziz Ghafoor and Kimia Ameri

Burn injuries can significantly impact a person's life both mentally and physically by leaving permanent scars. While emergency and surgical teams typically treat burns first, dermatologists play a critical role in helping patients recover from burn injuries. From scar maintenance to chronic symptom management, dermatologists are crucial to the long-term care of burn survivors.

One of the most challenging parts of burn healing is scarring. **Hypertrophic scars and keloids** not only alter a patient's appearance but also cause discomfort and severe mobility impairment. Dermatologists use a variety of advanced techniques, including fractional CO2 lasers and laser treatment, to treat these problems. By smoothing the scar tissue, these treatments can assist patients in regaining their self-esteem and ability to function.1,2

Skin pigmentation alterations are another consequence of burn damage. Following burns, patients frequently experience hyperpigmentation (darkened skin) or hypopigmentation (lightened skin), which can be distressing. Dermatologists can correct these problems and bring back the skin's natural look by using cutting-edge laser treatments or topical medications.³

For burn survivors, **nerve damage-related chronic itching and pain** are common side effects. To reduce these symptoms and enhance patients' comfort and quality of life, dermatologists prescribe specialized therapies such nerve modulators and antihistamines.



The significance of routine dermatological evaluations in burn care is further highlighted by their vital function in monitoring and preventing burn scars from developing into skin cancer, such as squamous cell carcinoma.⁴

Because dermatologists have specific expertise in skin healing and scar control, their inclusion in burn care teams improves patient outcomes. Their participation guarantees a thorough recovery strategy that takes into account both the psychological and physical components of healing.5,6

Overall, dermatologists play a crucial role in the multidisciplinary treatment of burn patients, providing knowledge that greatly enhances healing, functional recovery, and general quality of life.

Sources

- 1. Mahar PD, Spinks AB, Cleland H, Bekhor P, Waibel JS, Goodman G. Improvement of Burn Scars Treated With Fractional Ablative CO₂ Lasers—A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis Using the Vancouver Scar Scale. J Burn Care Res. 2021;42(2):200-206. doi:10.1093/jbcr/iraal30.
- 2.Chung JH. Burn wound healing and treatment: review and advancements. Crit Care. 2015;19(1):243. doi:10.1186/s13054-015-0961-2.
- 3. Musaev T, Landriscina A, Rosen J, Friedman AJ. The Management of Burn Injuries by Dermatologist: A Single Center Pilot Study. J Drugs Dermatol. 2015;14(7):721-724.
- 4. El-Sabbagh AH. Burn scar management: What's available and what's new? Ann Burns Fire Disasters. 2011;24(4):185-195.
- 5. Bickle K, Muck AE. Long-term care of burn wounds. Clin Dermatol. 2018;36(5):605-613. doi:10.1016/j.clindermatol.2018.05.002.
- 6. Gonzalez ME, Hernandez C, Ramirez EA, et al. Burn scar management: Current perspectives. Clin Cosmet Investig Dermatol. 2020;13:485-494. doi:10.2147/CCID.S239296.

Book Review – "In This Altered Body – A Survivor's Story of Resilience and Love" by Charlene Pell

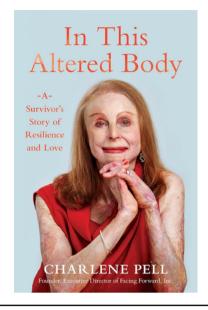
Submitted by Barbara-Anne Hodge

Charlene Pell is the kind of person that when you meet, and you don't soon forget. She is a very positive presence in the burn survivor community throughout the US and Canada.

I know when and where I first met Charlene. It was at a World Burn Congress, and we met to discuss her coming to Winnipeg to be the keynote speaker at one of the very first Mamingwey Burn Survivor Conferences. It was 2000 when we met, and Charlene and her husband. CH. came to our conference it 2001. Since then, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Charlene (and the evercharming CH!) at several conferences over the years. I have heard Charlene share her story many times, as well as seen her present her important work as the founder and **Executive Director of Facing Forward** Inc. This is an organization she has built to assist people with a facial difference by advocating, offering information and education, as well as building public awareness. I can say that she is tireless, and I have no idea how she found the time to write this memoir.

Charlene's book relates her entire journey as a burn survivor and spans 3 decades. Hers is a powerful story. She suffered extensive burns in a plane crash that also took





the life of her fiancé in 1994. Charlene takes a deep dive into her healing journey and what happened not just to her after the injury, but also to those around her: her family, friends, and even hospital staff. Her story is compelling and extremely well written, it is a book that you don't want to put down.

Charlene is a true example of someone who never gave up hope, and who continues to strive to have a full and meaningful life. She is one of the strongest women I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. You cannot read this book and not be inspired and uplifted! Her book is full of wisdom for every stage of burn recovery and a must-read for anyone affected by a burn injury, as well as for anyone who wants to understand what it takes to 'find yourself' after trauma. I do not want to give away too much here but know that this book is worth your time.

Recently, this book was chosen as the 2024 IAN (Independent Author Network) Book of the Year Award, along with Grand Prize Non-Fiction Books of the Year, Second Place. Wow, impressive!

In This Altered Body is available on <u>Amazon.ca</u> in hardcover, paperback or on Kindle.

www.charlenepell.com







A Year in Review: 2024 with the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund

2024 was a busy year for the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund! It started off with the Thrive Retreat in January, an opportunity for young adult burn survivors to connect and gain knowledge and tools to help navigate young adulthood as burn survivors. It was our biggest year yet with 17 young adults, including two guests from the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation down in California!

Next up was our weeklong Burn Camp in July with 65 campers and 8 junior counsellors in attendance up at the Cheakamus Centre in Squamish, BC. Camp was supported by over 50 amazing volunteers made up of fire fighters, adult burn survivors, nurses, and other health care professionals. We are so grateful to our volunteers for making Burn Camp the special place that it is.

In September, the Burn Fund hosted our Little Lionhearts Family Camp for the second time in- person since the pandemic and it was a huge success. We had 10 families of our youngest burn survivors come together back up at the Cheakamus Centre to network and experience a therapeutic weekend together. A highlight for

the children was our Teddy Bear Clinic.

In between, we hosted adult burn survivor events, fundraisers, recognized Burn Awareness Week and Fire Prevention Week and much more! Most importantly, our group started to plan for the CBSC Conference coming up in Spring 2025! The BCPFF Burn Fund can't wait to host everyone in Victoria, BC in just a few months.

Life After Burns Holiday Events



Holiday Party



All of our programs are free for the burn community!

Holiday Watercolour Card Making Workshop



Holiday Hot Chocolate Spoons

Submitted by Daniel Nguyen

These chocolate spoons are perfect for stirring into a warm cup of milk to create a rich, creamy hot chocolate!

Ingredients:

- · 12-15 plastic or wooden spoons
- · 1 cup chocolate chips (dark, milk, or white chocolate)
- · Mini marshmallows
- · Crushed candy canes
- · Holiday sprinkles
- · Optional: caramel bits, mini chocolate chips, or cinnamon



Instructions:

- 1. Melt the chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl in 15-second intervals, stirring in between until smooth.
- 2. Dip each spoon into the melted chocolate, covering the entire bowl of the spoon. Gently tap to let any excess chocolate drip off.
- 3. While the chocolate is still warm, add toppings like mini marshmallows, crushed candy canes, and sprinkles.
- 4. Place the spoons on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and allow them to cool completely. To speed up the process, refrigerate for about 10-15 minutes.
- 5. Once set, wrap each spoon individually in plastic wrap and tie with a festive ribbon.

To enjoy: Stir a chocolate spoon into a cup of hot milk until melted for a delicious, festive hot chocolate!

This recipe can be a fun and accessible activity for all ages and a sweet gift idea for loved ones during the holidays!







New Year's Resolutions

Here are some joyful New Year's resolutions that could inspire a sense of optimism and community:

Embrace Self-Care

Dedicate time each week to do something kind for yourself—whether it's reading a new book, enjoying a favorite hobby, or just taking a few quiet moments to recharge. Prioritize what brings you peace and happiness!

Celebrate Small Wins

Every step forward is worth celebrating, no matter how small. Make it a habit to acknowledge personal victories throughout the year to keep a positive momentum.

Give Back in Small Ways

Whether volunteering, offering support, or sharing your story, small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Find ways to contribute to causes that resonate with you and spread compassion.

Practice Daily Gratitude

Begin each day by noting one thing you're grateful for. This small habit can build positivity and remind you of the beauty in everyday moments.



Connect with Community

Reach out and connect with fellow burn survivors, family, or friends. Whether it's through phone calls, virtual meet-ups, or attending events, building connections can bring comfort and joy.

Focus on Strengths

Start a "Strength Journal" to reflect on moments of resilience, courage, or kindness. By focusing on strengths, you can build confidence and set a foundation for even more growth in the coming year.

Explore New Hobbies

Try something new—art, cooking, gardening, or writing! Exploring fresh hobbies can bring joy, relaxation, and maybe even some hidden talents.

Volunteer With Us

Make an impact utilizing your skillset and passions!

Other volunteering opportunities include:

- Administrative
- Board of Directors
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Development
- Peer Support

If you are interested, fill out our Volunteer Form.

Any questions? Email Victoria at

v.vass@mycbsc.ca

Go to our website

www.canadianburnsurvivors.ca/volunteer



CBSC T-Shirts for Sale!

The CBSC now has T-Shirts available on our website!! \$35/shirt (Shipping fee within Canada included) Visit our website to purchase! Small - XXXL available



Donate to Support the CBSC

Since 2006, the CBSC has aided over 1,000 burn survivors in Canada and the US. We facilitate monthly chats, provide 1-on-1 mentoring, and host nationwide conferences uniting survivors, families, caregivers, and the medical community to share advancements.

To continue our mission of supporting burn patients as they transition to becoming survivors, we depend on your support. Our volunteer-run organization depends on individual and corporate donations. With this support, we've assisted 1,000+ patients but our work isn't complete.

Your contributions enable us to aid more survivors, particularly in areas lacking local support. Your donation to the CBSC assists burn survivors in their journey to recovery, empowering them to move forward confidently. Support our cause by donating today!

CONTACTUS



www.canadianburnsurvivors.ca



v.vass@mycbsc.ca



@canadianburnsurvivorscommunity

