

# Community Reintegration of Previously Incarcerated Older Adults

## Exploratory Insights from a Canadian Community Residential Facility Program

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# Presentation Outline

- **State of knowledge on the community reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults**
- **Overview of Community Residential Facility in Peterborough, ON (Haley House)**
- **Research design and methods**
- **Key findings**
- **Implications for research, policy and practice**

# Collaborators & Funders



Correctional Service  
Canada

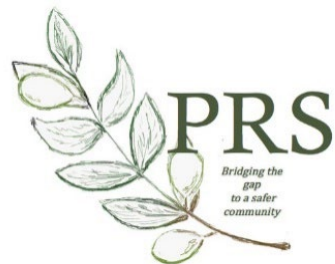
Service correctionnel  
Canada



Canada Research  
Chairs

Chaires de recherche  
du Canada

Canada



**Dr. Mark Skinner, Trent University**

**Dr. Gillian Balfour, Kings University College  
at Western University**

**Ted Boynton, Citizens Advisory Committee**

**David Byrne, Centennial College**

**Dr. Crystal Dieleman, Dalhousie University**

**Christine Cairns, Peterborough Parole**

**Jeff Morgan, One City Peterborough**

# Challenges of Community Reintegration

- **Older adults face difficult and problematic transitions into community**
  - Lack of social support from friends and family
  - Stigmatization due to assumptions and stereotypes of incarceration
  - Challenge of accessing housing and long-term care
  - Struggle to access medical and health services
    - Medication sustainability
    - Documentation (OHIP/Health Card)
    - Navigating healthcare system
  - Implications of COVID-19?



# Community Residential Facility – Haley House

- **CSC contracted Community Residential Facility**

- Established in 2016
- For men on conditional release and long-term supervision orders

- **Place of support**

- Provides specialized support for men facing serious chronic physical and mental health issues, or impending end of life
- Dignity-centred model



# Community Reintegration Research

- **Exploratory research - 2019**
- **Collaboration between Trent University, CSC and Haley House**
- **Objectives**
  1. Explore the experiences of older men on parole as they navigate community reintegration
  2. Understand the perspectives of Haley House staff and community stakeholders involved in supporting community reintegration
- **Qualitative Interviews (N=20)**
  - Haley House residents (N=6)
  - Haley House staff (N=7)
  - Stakeholders (N=7)
    - Parole, Community Chaplaincy, LHIN, PSW, CAC, Police

# Aging-Related Reintegration Issues

**“The guys that we take on here obviously have health, mobility, whatever issues and it’s not uncommon for them to come out without a health card, without any process started to receive their old age Canada pension and sometimes they show up with as little as a few days of medication.”**

**Haley House Staff**

# Continuum of Support in the Community

**“There’s no planning. Not one iota. Even when there is programming, it’s always left to the last minute and maybe you’ll get it, maybe you don’t.”**

**Haley House Resident**

**“I think [Haley House] has multiple roles. It’s getting them back out in the community, teaching them the life skills that they need, providing them with the supports to age gracefully and with dignity in the community.”**

**Haley House Staff**



# Stigma and Barriers to Long-Term Care

**“The main thing I think that stands out for the long-term care home is we already know this person is at additional risk because of these parole conditions and they’re already overrun with people who probably have behavioural issues that is a risk, so for them, it’s difficult to take on someone that we know has that bit of extra layer of risk.”**

**Community Stakeholder**

# Implications for Research, Policy & Practice

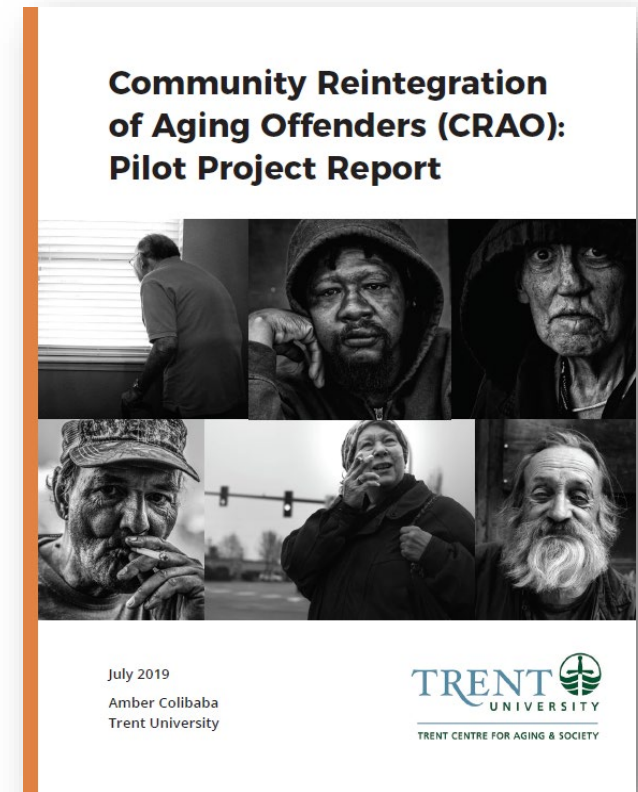
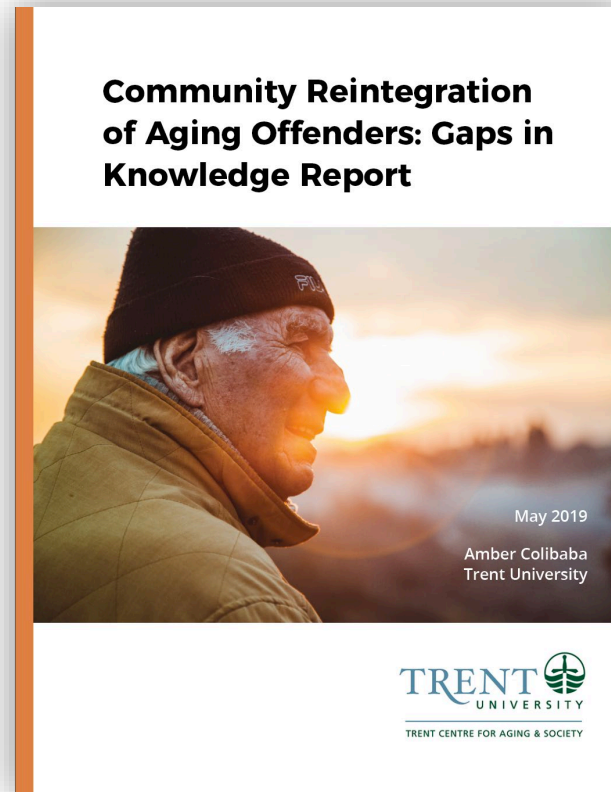
Research	Policy	Practice
How can scholarship account for the <b>diversity of experiences</b> of community reintegration for previously incarcerated older adults?	How can policy frameworks <b>better accommodate previously incarcerated older adults</b> as they reintegration into the community?	What <b>community-level innovations</b> are available and/or possible to build promising practices for community reintegration?
How can scholarship account for the <b>gender and gendered experiences</b> of community reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults?	How can <b>policy frameworks within correctional institutions</b> change to prepare and support older adults for release into the community?	How can <b>long-term care</b> be better educated and equipped to support previously incarcerated older individuals?
How can scholarship account for the <b>diversity of community integration setting and scales</b> (national vs. local, urban vs. rural)?	What <b>new forms of policy</b> can be implemented to support community reintegration and at what level?	What role do <b>organizations, communities and individuals</b> play in the community reintegration process?

# Thank you!

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[www.craoresearch.com](http://www.craoresearch.com)



Colibaba, A., Skinner, M. W., Balfour, G., Byrne, D., & Dieleman, C. (in press). Community reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults: Exploratory insights from a Canadian community residential facility program. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*.