

Exploring the Community Reintegration of Previously Incarcerated Older Adults

Insights from a Community Residential Facility in Peterborough, Ontario

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Presentation Outline

- **Collaboration and projects**
- **State of knowledge on the community reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults**
- **Overview of Community Residential Facility in Peterborough, ON (Haley House)**
- **Introduction to pilot project**
- **Key findings**
- **Implications for research, policy and practice**
- **Next steps**

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

Project 1: No Place to Call Home Symposium

- Collaborative symposium at Trent University in 2018
- Over 160 attendees from CSC, CACs, chaplaincies, community reintegration services, community support, long-term and palliative care, universities
- Creating conversations on the gaps in knowledge about the community reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults



NO PLACE TO CALL HOME

THE CHALLENGES OF REINTEGRATING SENIOR PAROLEES INTO THE COMMUNITY AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

FEBRUARY 22, 2018

GSC 114, Gzowski College, Trent University
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.)

\$30 general admission
\$15 for students
For tickets go to:
<https://noplacetocallhome.eventbrite.ca>
Lunch and parking is included

CAREER & NETWORKING FAIR

Students interested in a career or program placement within correctional services, victim services, community outreach and other related fields are encouraged to attend both the talks and the career & networking fair.

Employer tables may be visited throughout the day in the atrium in front of GCS 114 with a dedicated networking session from 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact:
Justin Sutton at 705.748.1011 ext. 6441

Opening Speaker
HENRY DE SOUZA joined the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) as Director General within the Health Services Sector in 2008. He is currently DG Clinical Services and Public Health with responsibilities for the development and implementation of standards, guidelines and strategies relating to the provision of essential health services to the federal offender population. Responsibilities also include the development and implementation of health promotion and disease prevention programs and initiatives. His talk is called: *Correctional Service Canada's strategy for promoting wellness and independence of older persons within CSC.*

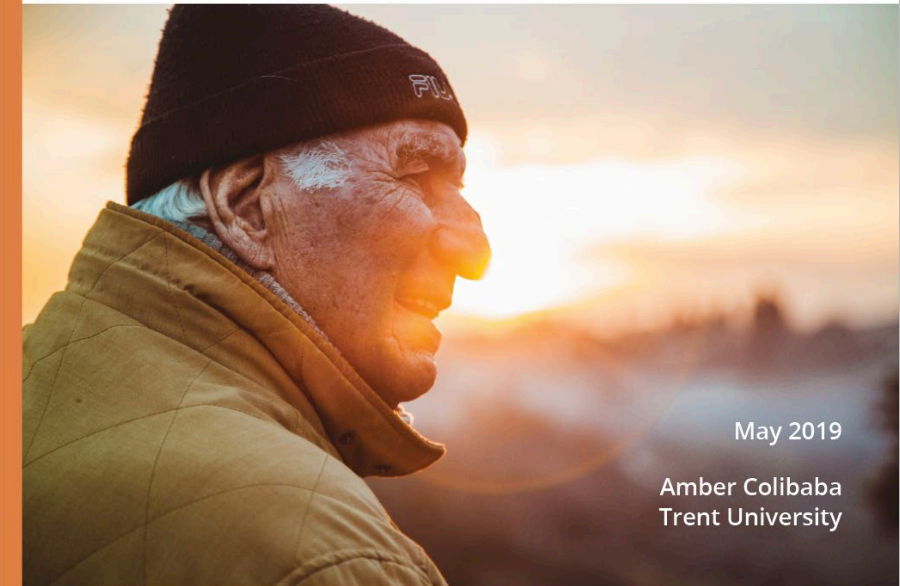
Keynote Speaker
DR. CRYSTAL DIELEMAN is an occupational therapist and assistant professor at Dalhousie University. Her current work examines intentions and outcomes of wellness court programs, sexual activity among forensic mental health clients, and the health, legal and social justice priorities of prisoners. Her talk is called: *"I'm too old for this sh**": Experiences of age and imprisonment.*

Feature Speaker
DAVID BYRNE, Executive Director of Peterborough Reintegration Services in Peterborough, Ontario, will describe how Haley House CRF emerged out of Community Chaplain Dan Haley's efforts to assist federal offenders transition back to the community at end of their lives. David will provide a brief history of the organization, describe how Haley House grew out of previous models and present the current program model, noting emerging challenges. His talk is called: *A Place Like This: Haley House as a Model of Supporting Aging Federal Offenders in their Transition to the*

Project 2: Gaps in Knowledge Report

- Follow-up to 2018 symposium
- Frontline knowledge on the barriers, issues and potential solutions of community reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults
- Next steps and directions forward

Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders: Gaps in Knowledge Report



May 2019

Amber Colibaba
Trent University

Project 2: Gaps in Knowledge Report

4. Frontline Knowledge Regarding the Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders

Following the *No Place to Call Home* Symposium held at Trent University in February 2018, attendees were sent a follow-up survey in order to gain an understanding of what is already known about the community reintegration of aging offenders. Specifically, the survey asked respondents to list 1) barriers facing aging offenders when reintegrating into the community, 2) issues surrounding the community reintegration of aging offenders, and 3) what are possible solutions to consider in addressing the barriers and issues. Table 4.1 provides a summary of the survey results.

Table 4.1 Summary of survey results

Barriers facing aging offenders when reintegrating into the community	Issues surrounding the community reintegration of aging offenders	Solutions to address the issues and barriers
Stigma	Access to long-term care	Aging offender specific community residential facility (CRF)
Access to housing	Availability of housing	Increased release planning
Lack of supports and skills	Community resources and services	Public education

A total of 39 responses (of 164 attendees) were received from symposium attendees representing a variety of sectors and organizations, including religious groups, policing services, parole, the non-profit sector, legal services, health care, education, corrections and community support agencies. The answers were compiled and analyzed to provide insights on the varying and diverse perspectives of the symposium attendees and to determine the pre-existing knowledge surrounding the challenges and opportunities of the community reintegration of aging offenders. Through examining what is known, we are able to present gaps in knowledge which can inform future research opportunities.

Barriers facing aging offenders when reintegrating into the community

Due to a variety of factors previously mentioned in this report, aging offenders are facing barriers when reintegrating back into the community. Based off survey responses, the largest barrier discussed by symposium attendees was the stigmatization of offenders by the community. Survey answers mention the NIMBY-ism displayed by community members when thinking about offenders, older or not, living within their communities. These sentiments were described as being based on the assumptions and stereotypes of offenders and people with criminal records. Specific to aging offenders however, many survey respondents described

5. Moving Forward

Drawing from the literature and the knowledge from the *No Place to Call Home* symposium attendees, there are opportunities to use the gaps presented and to move forward towards shedding light on the issue of the community reintegration of aging offenders. Table 5.1 presents a summary of the gaps from the literature and the frontline knowledge and shows the next steps, which are further described in the proceeding sections.

Table 5.1 Summary of gaps and next steps

Literature	Frontline Knowledge	Next Steps
Challenges of the community reintegration of aging offenders	Experiences of the aging offenders	Need for research on the community reintegration of aging offenders
Canadian specific literature on community reintegration of aging offenders	Public education regarding the community reintegration of aging offenders	Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO) Pilot Project
National examples of solutions to the challenges of community reintegration of aging offenders		

Directions forward from the literature

The literature presented in Section 2 outlined the growing number of aging offenders within the custody of Correctional Service Canada (CSC). It also outlined the complex needs of this population and some of the challenges they face while upon release when reintegrating into the community. Additionally, it presented a framework and potential solution to help meet the needs of aging offenders and to meet their needs as they transition from institution to community.

The presentation of literature also highlights gaps in which further research and analysis is needed. One gap is that there is limited research on the challenges of aging offenders as they reintegrate into the community. Although some literature exists (Maschi et al., 2013; Williams & Abraldes, 2007), it is limited. More research is needed to fully understand and encompass the challenges and solutions to the community reintegration of aging offenders.

A second gap is the lack of Canadian literature and examples on the community reintegration of aging offenders. Although a policy framework was developed by CSC addressing older persons in custody (see Section 3), there is missing literature of Canadian specific examples of solutions to the community reintegration issue. Having these national examples could help in developing additional strategies to address the issues of the community reintegration of aging offenders.

Project 3: Pilot Project

- **Case Study of Community Residential Facility in Peterborough, Ontario (Haley House)**
- **Examines the experiences of aging men on parole as they transition from correctional institutions into the community**
- **Report and peer-reviewed manuscript (under review *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*)**

Community Reintegration of Aging Offenders (CRAO): Pilot Project Report



July 2019

Amber Colibaba
Trent University

Challenges of Aging within Correctional Institutions

- **Population inside correctional institutions is aging**
 - 25% of inmates in Canadian correctional facilities over 50 years old
 - Increased 50% over last decade
- **Challenges of incarceration for older adults**
 - Social (bullying, loss of freedom)
 - Medical (arthritis, depression, dementia, etc.)
 - Canadian policies and frameworks to help mitigate challenges
 - Canada's Office of the Correctional Investigator and the Human Rights Commission (2019) publication *Aging and Dying in Prison: An Investigation into the Experiences of Older Individuals in Federal Custody*
 - CSC framework (2018) *Promoting Wellness and Independence of Older Persons in CSC custody*

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

1. How can scholarship account for the **diversity of experiences** of community reintegration for previously incarcerated older adults?
2. How can scholarship account for the **gender and gendered experiences** of community reintegration of previously incarcerated older adults?
3. How can scholarship account for the **diversity of community integration setting and scales** (national vs. local, urban vs. rural)?
4. How can scholarship account for the **range of community characteristics** that help or hinder the community reintegration process?

Implications for Research, Policy & Practice

Policy

1. How can **policy frameworks better accommodate previously incarcerated older adults** as they reintegrate into the community?
2. What **new forms of policy** can be implemented to support community reintegration and at what level?
3. How can **policy frameworks within correctional institutions** change to prepare and support older adults for release into the community?
4. How can community reintegration **policy be implemented at the community level?**

Implications for Research, Policy & Practice

Practice

1. Who is **responsible for supporting previously incarcerated older adults** as they reintegrate into the community?
2. What **community-level innovations** are available and/or possible to build promising practices for community reintegration?
3. How can **long-term care be better educated and equipped** to support previously incarcerated older individuals?
4. What role do **organizations, communities and individuals** play in the community reintegration process?

Next Steps

- **The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **International examples of promising practices**
- **Expanding geographical focus**
- **Inclusion of experiences of older women and older people with non-binary gender identities**
- **Inclusion of experiences of marginalized older adults**

Thank you!

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