

# *Through the service providers' eyes: A first glance on practices aiming to support aging in the right place for older adults experiencing homelessness in Montréal*

Émilie Cormier  
Hannah Brais  
Diandra Serrano  
Tamara Sussman  
Valérie Bourgeois-Guérin

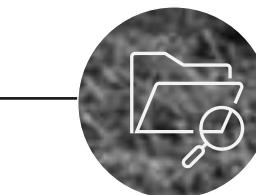
Canadian Association on  
Gerontology annual conference

23 October 2021



# Data Collection Tools

---



**Document review**



**Providers' interviews**



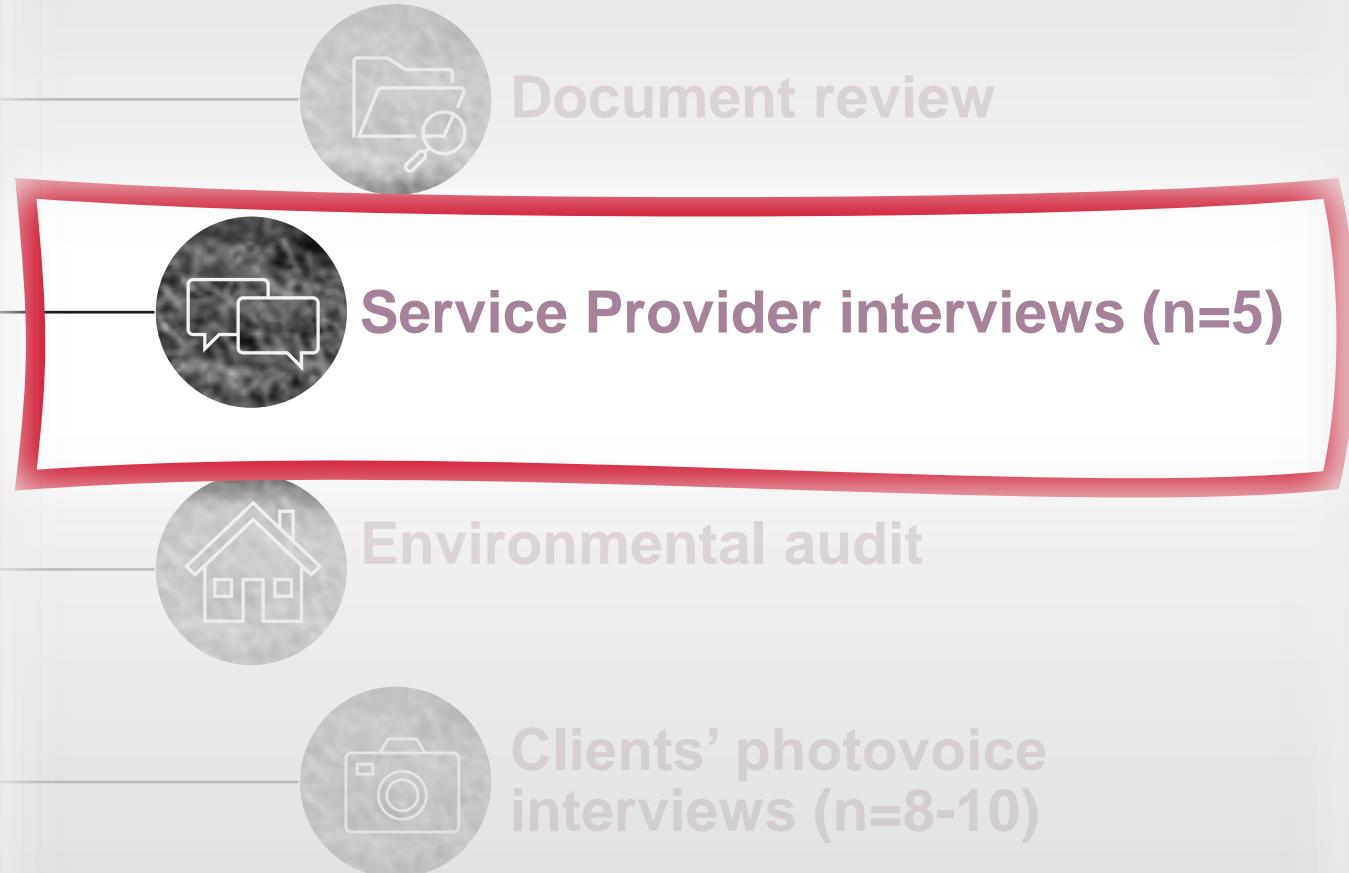
**Environmental audit**



**Clients' photovoice interviews**

# Aging in the Right Place

## Data collection tools



# Promising Practice : La Traversée



*Traversée : Passage - crossing, passage, transit.*

- Long-term affordable community housing;
- 14 private rooms for persons without fixed homes who are 50+;
- 2 meals per day, furniture, a community kitchen, a community room, laundry room;
- Multi-disciplinary team available on site for personalized psychosocial support.

# Service Provider Interviews

---

- 5 online semi-structured qualitative interviews
- Areas explored:
  - Characteristics of the promising practice (history/mission, rules, ease/contract, access, collaboration with other organizations)
  - Characteristics of the clients (physical and mental health, financial well-being)
  - Interactions of clients and practice (relationships between clients and service providers, place attachment)



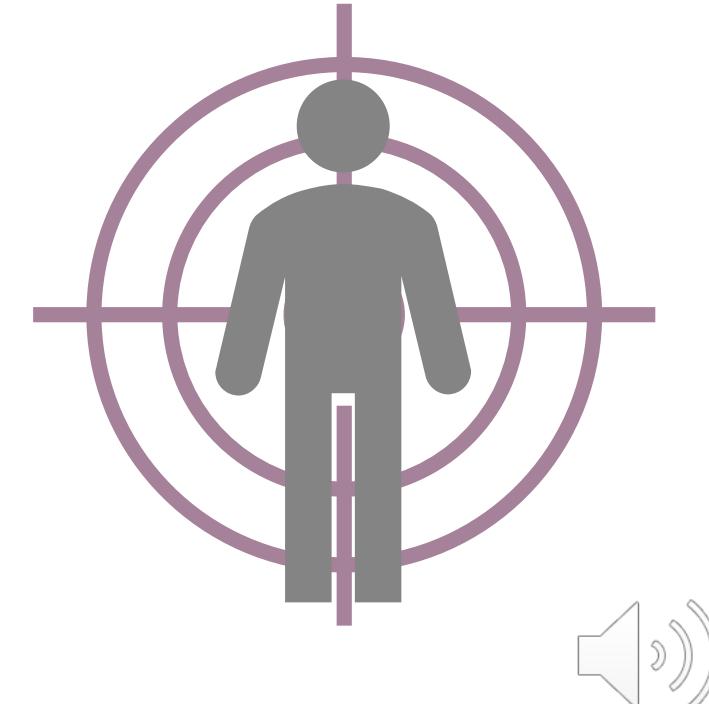


What seems to promote *Aging in the Right Place*?

# Seeing and adapting to the human behind the older person experiencing homelessness: Person-centered approach

---

*“We have to be patient. You have to be caring and you have to not take things personally. Because it's a clientele that is, well actually, there are all kinds of problems, uh, difficulties. [...] It's a very open and caring approach with these guys that works very well. Without judgment and also with the patience that gives the person time to, to open up. To open up to us. [...] Sometimes that, well actually most of the time, that gives great, great results.”*

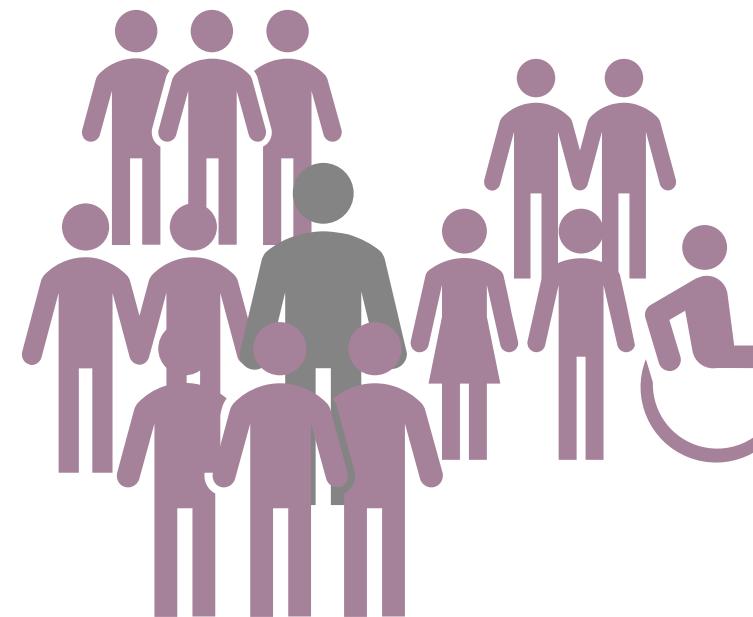




## A family-like service: Community

---

*“The strength is to give a family to people who don't have a family. Or people who are alone. So the strength is the community spirit. It's giving a place to stay to people who are alone and then they get old.”*





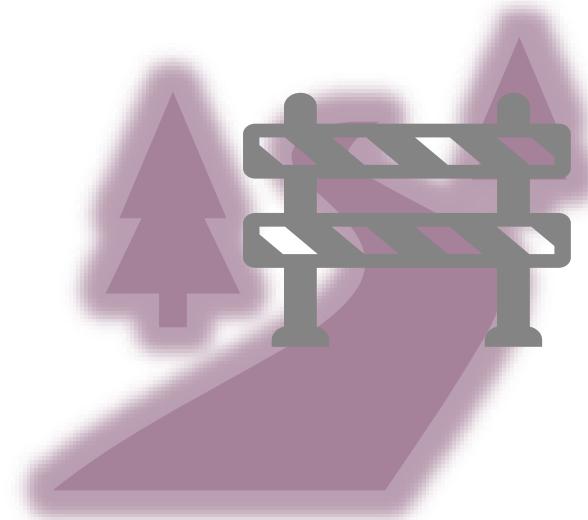
**What seems to challenge *Aging in the Right Place?***



## Between transitionary and long-term housing: The blurriness of limited limitlessness

---

*“It's like a transition. To start aging in the right place, it is a great door. To start that process of, of, of aging in the right place. Because that gives stability to people who have lost that stability. Then we can stabilize them and bring them to a better place.”*

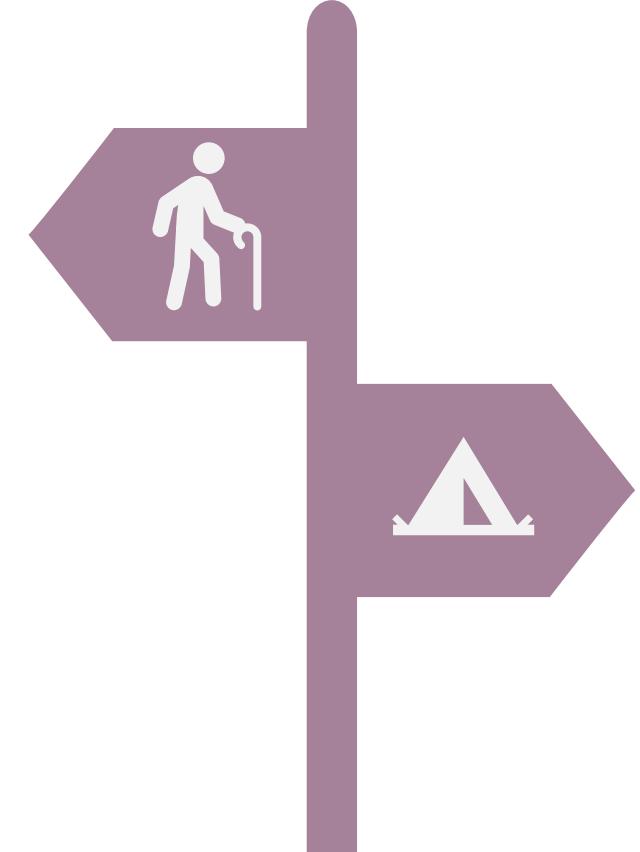




Too old to be homeless, too young to be elderly:

## The grey zone between aging and homelessness

*“Its kind of a grey zone program. Because we are dealing with an elderly homeless clientele, who are not physically or cognitively hypothecated enough, whatever, to be in a CHSLD. But we can’t leave them in shelters either. But they don’t have the skills to be in an apartment anymore, so, you know, they’re really in a kind of grey zone.”*





Getting inspired...

↑ Scaling up ↑

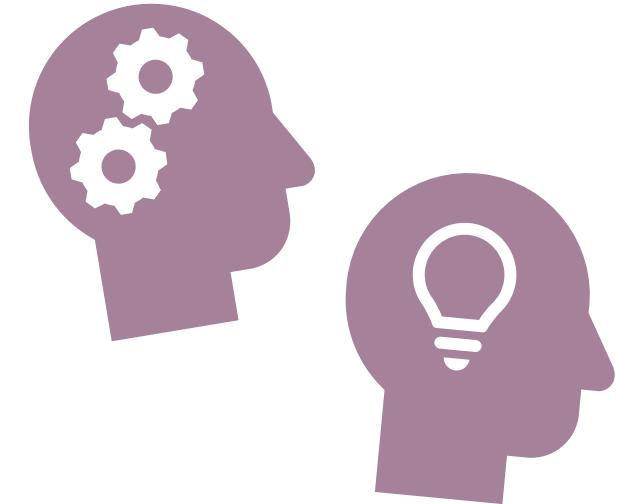
←--- Scaling out ---→

# Helping providers support *Aging in the Right Place*: Training and clinical supervision

---



*“When I work with this client according to the objectives that were defined at the beginning, I have difficulties with such and such elements, I would like to have some suggestions for intervention. [...] These discussions don't exist - when we are extremely lucky, we have a colleague who joins the team and we are able to have these discussions, but this colleague will not stay forever. They will leave for other things.”*



# Resources that promotes *Aging in the Right Place*: Human-scale despite professionalization

---



*“So I think that it would be interesting to have more structures like that [...] Because it's true that well, residences for the elderly are all very well -you have your own home, you have meals every day and so on- but in reality, do these people mix with each other? Do they see someone on a daily basis? We also have the strength of, they are not alone, we see them, we have contact with them.”*





Thank you!



[Twitter](#)



[Linkedin](#)



[Website](#)