

Planning to age in the 'right' place

Presented by:

Rachel Weldrick, PhD

On behalf of:

Sarah Canham, PhD; Tamara Sussman, PhD; Atiya Mahmood, PhD; Christine Walsh, PhD
& the Aging in the Right Place Partnership (AIRP) team



Homelessness among older persons

- Incidence appears to be increasing in Canada
- People 55+ can experience homelessness differently
- Different pathways to homelessness:
 - Homeless for first time in older adulthood
 - Long-term homelessness
 - Episodic homelessness across life course
- Services, shelters, and other supports are largely age-unfriendly

Aging in place – an exclusionary agenda

- Aging in place is an ideal that is heavily promoted, but not accessible to all people
- Aging in the right place (AIRP) recognizes that secure and optimal housing for older people should support an individual's unique lifestyles and vulnerabilities
- Minimal research has considered how older people with experiences of homelessness (OPEH) may age in the right place

Objective:

To develop a framework of aging in the right place indicators unique to older people with experiences of homelessness



Developing a model through community-engaged methods

- Starting point: academic and grey literature
- Community engagement and consultations with:
 - Service agency representatives
 - Housing providers
 - Lived expertise advisors
 - Representation from partners in BC, AB, QC
- Iterative process of community consultation and model refinement

Indicators of Aging in the Right Place for Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

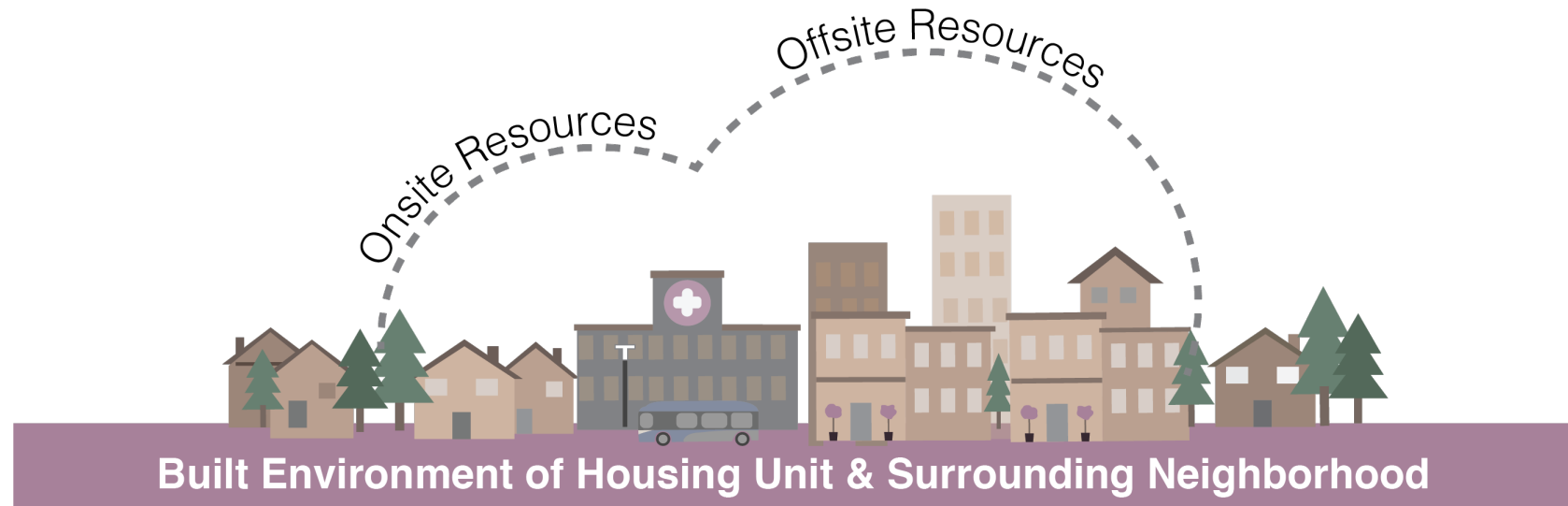
*E.g., inclusive and accessible
communal spaces, shelter & housing
design, safety & security of built
environments*



Built Environment of Housing Unit & Surrounding Neighborhood

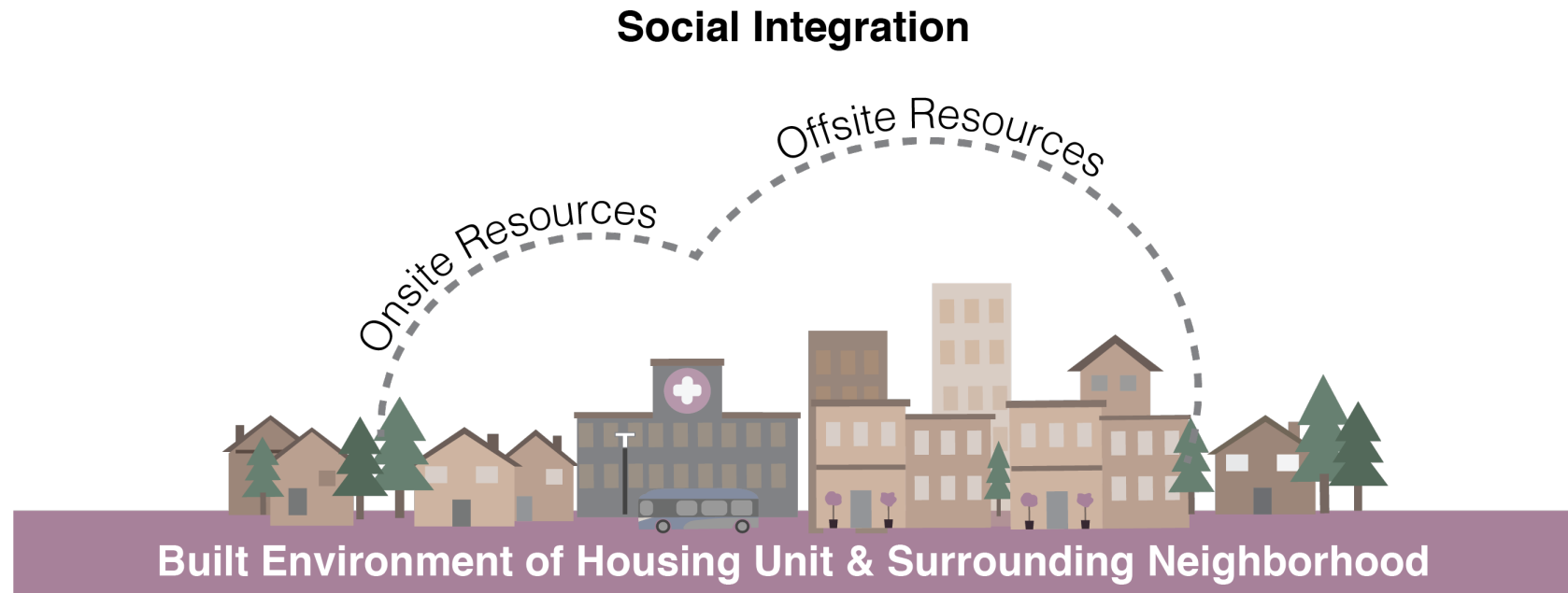
Indicators of Aging in the Right Place for Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

*E.g., accessible and inclusive
transportation infrastructure, service
delivery / distribution that meets
folks where they're at*



Indicators of Aging in the Right Place for Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

E.g., social infrastructures, spaces & places for socialization and civic participation



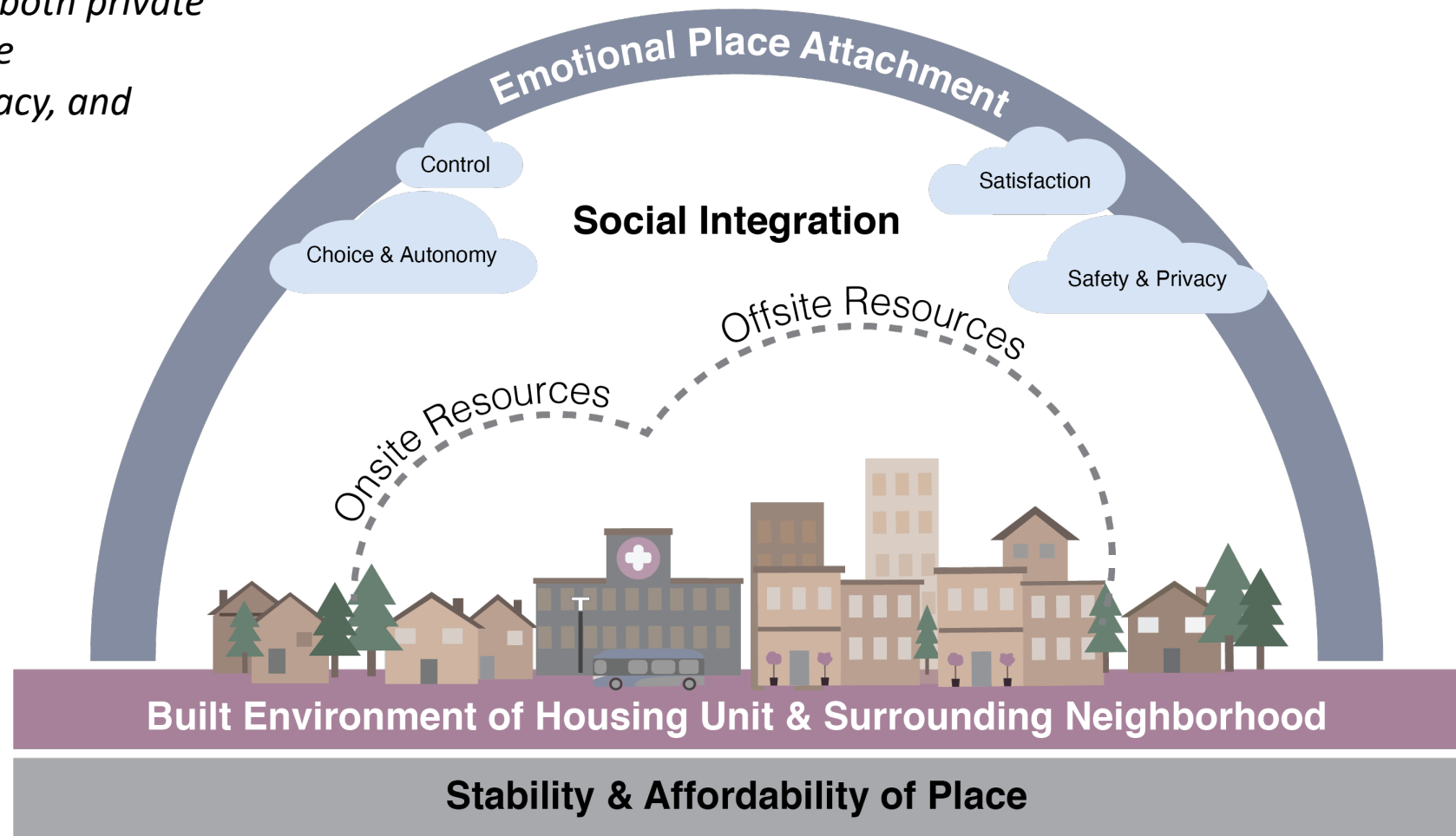
Indicators of Aging in the Right Place for Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

E.g., neighbourhoods, housing & residential environments that are affordable and promote housing stability



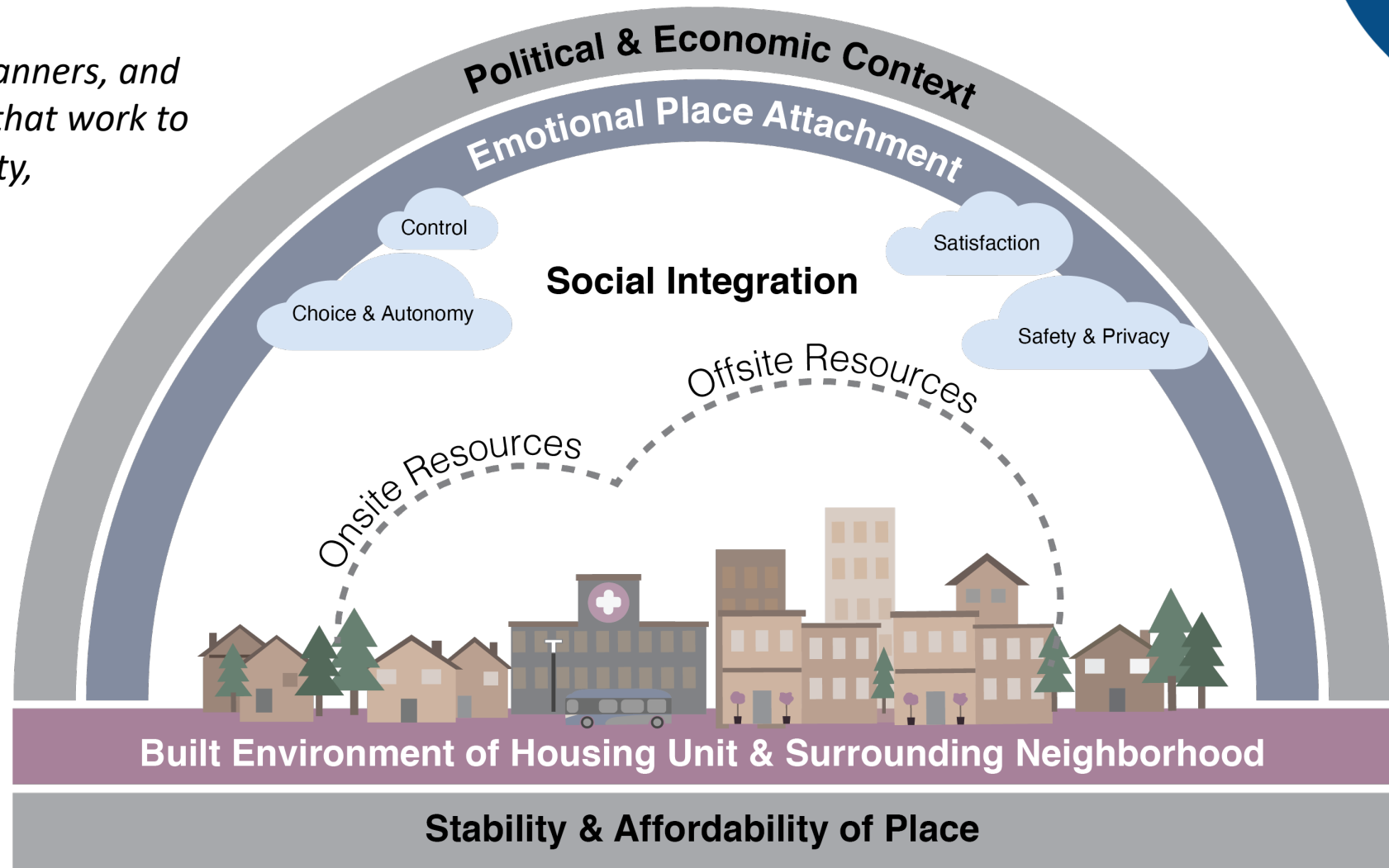
Indicators of Aging in the Right Place for Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

E.g., places and spaces, both private and public, that promote satisfaction, safety, privacy, and connection

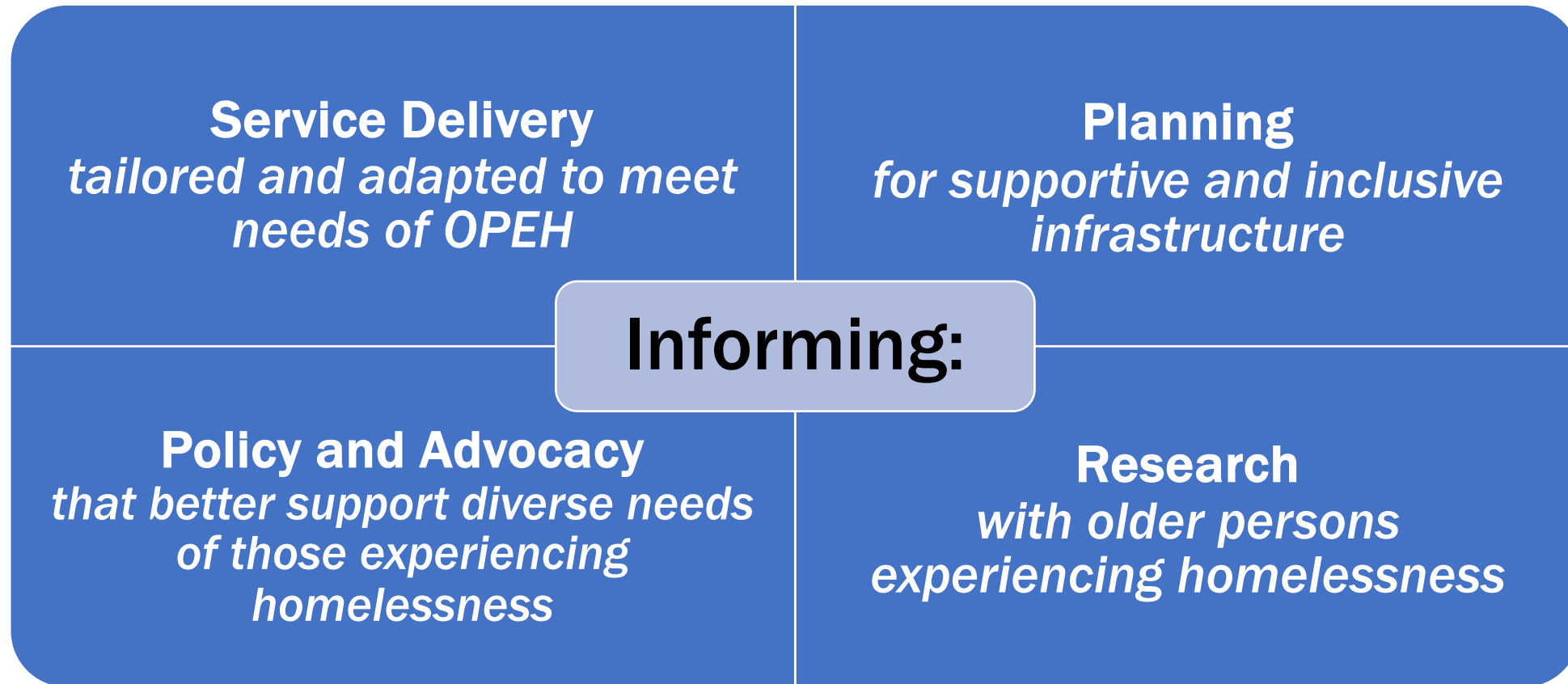


Indicators of Aging in the Right Place for Older Persons Experiencing Homelessness

E.g., decisionmakers, planners, and economic stakeholders that work to reduce housing instability, homelessness



Applying the Framework



The Importance of Lived Expertise Inclusion

- Meaningful community engagement = lived expertise inclusion from start to finish
- Promotes co-learning and lasting relationships with partners, experts, groups
- Note:
 - co-ownership of outputs
 - compensation for time and expertise



Thank you!

Contact:

Rachel Weldrick, PhD (Speaker)
rweldrick@torontomu.ca

Sarah Canham, PhD (Project Director)
sarah.canham@utah.edu

#OPPIConference2023

More info:

<https://www.sfu.ca/airp.html>



Ontario
Professional
Planners
Institute