

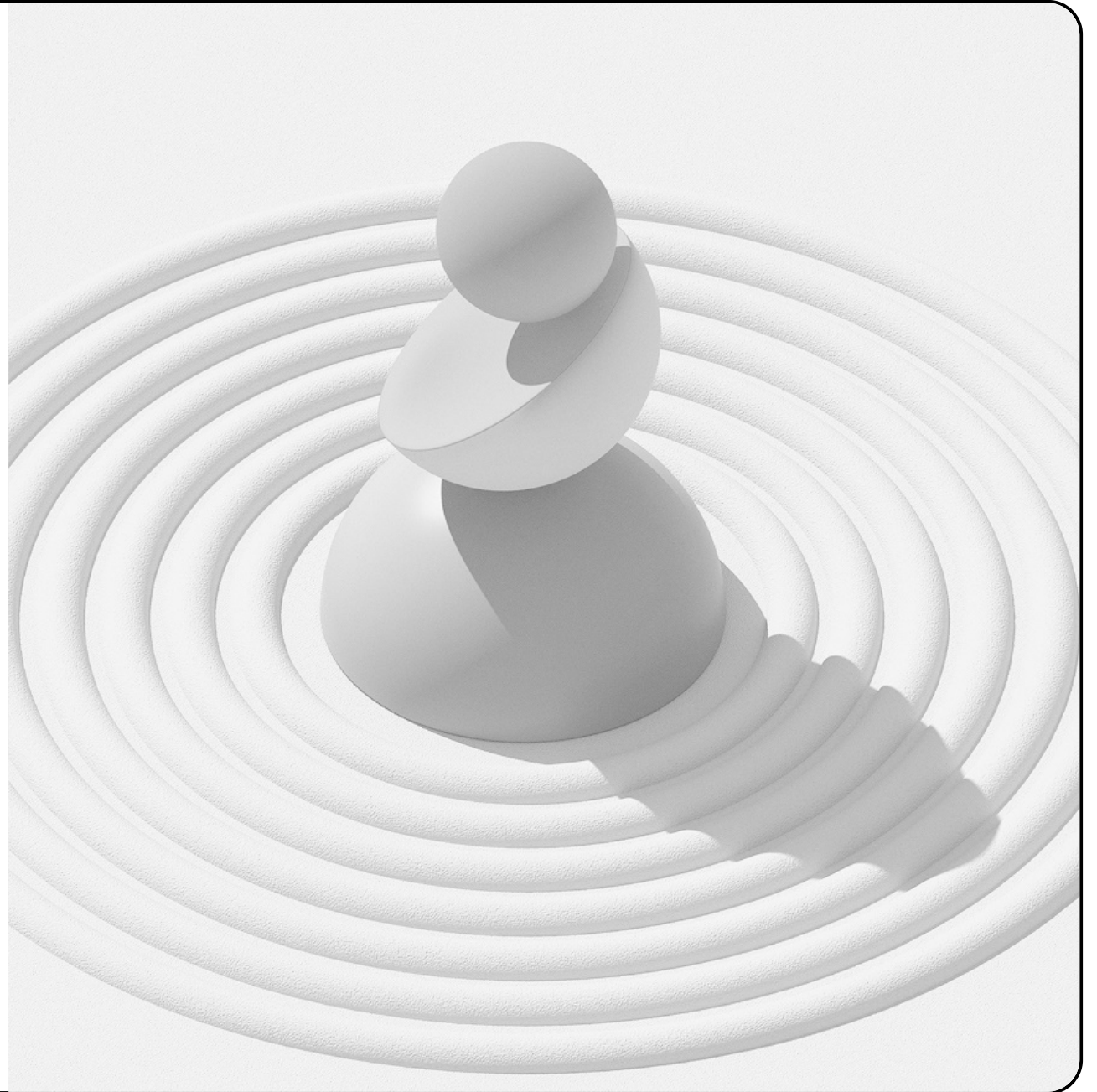
**JOHN HOWARD  
SOCIETY**

**PEEL-HALTON-DUFFERIN**

# WELCOME

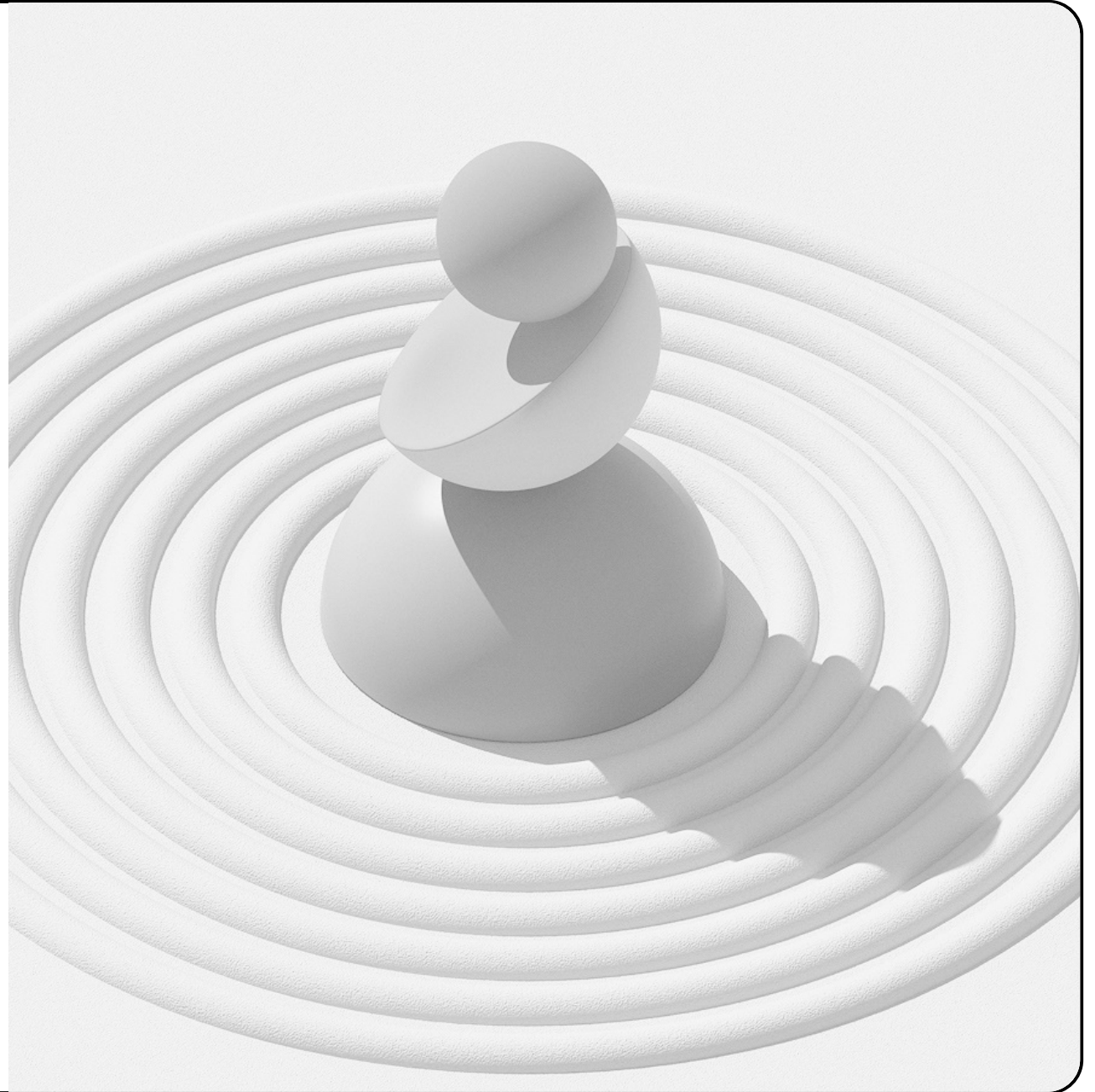
Hello, I'm Joseph Edwards

- Eviction Prevention Worker
- Community Services Department
- John Howard Society PHD
- Location – Brampton
- Working in the community since 2020



# EVICTION PREVENTION WORKER'S ROLE

- Assist clients with budgeting
- Provide client support at the LTB
- Looking over LTB docs with client
- Act as liaison with landlords
- Offer limited help with outstanding rent when funds are available
- Empower clients/tenants
- Network with other agencies.

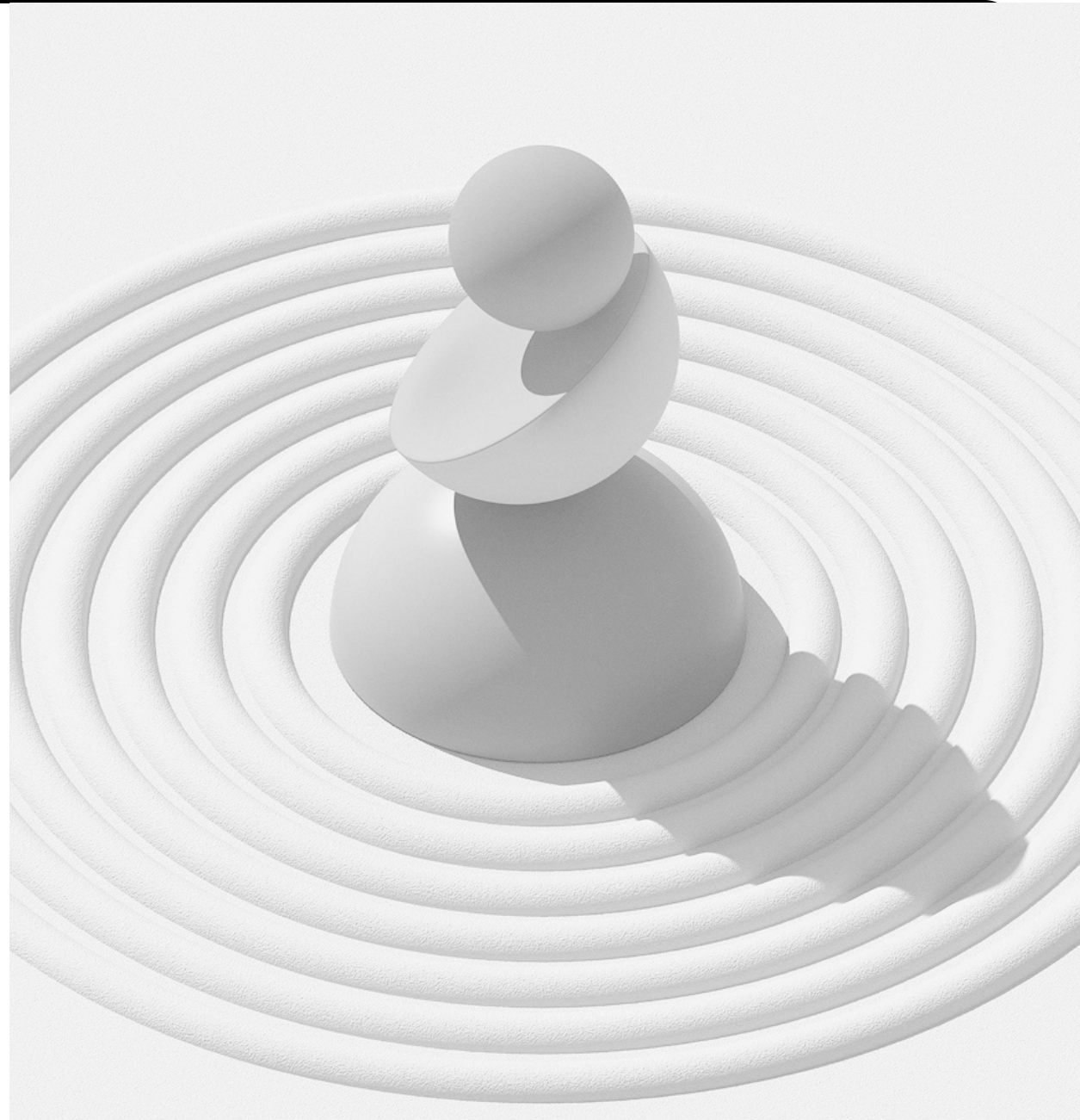


# TOPIC

UNIQUE HOUSING CHALLENGES  
FACED BY JUSTICE-INVOLVED  
INDIVIDUALS  
AND  
EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO  
SUPPORTING VULNERABLE  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

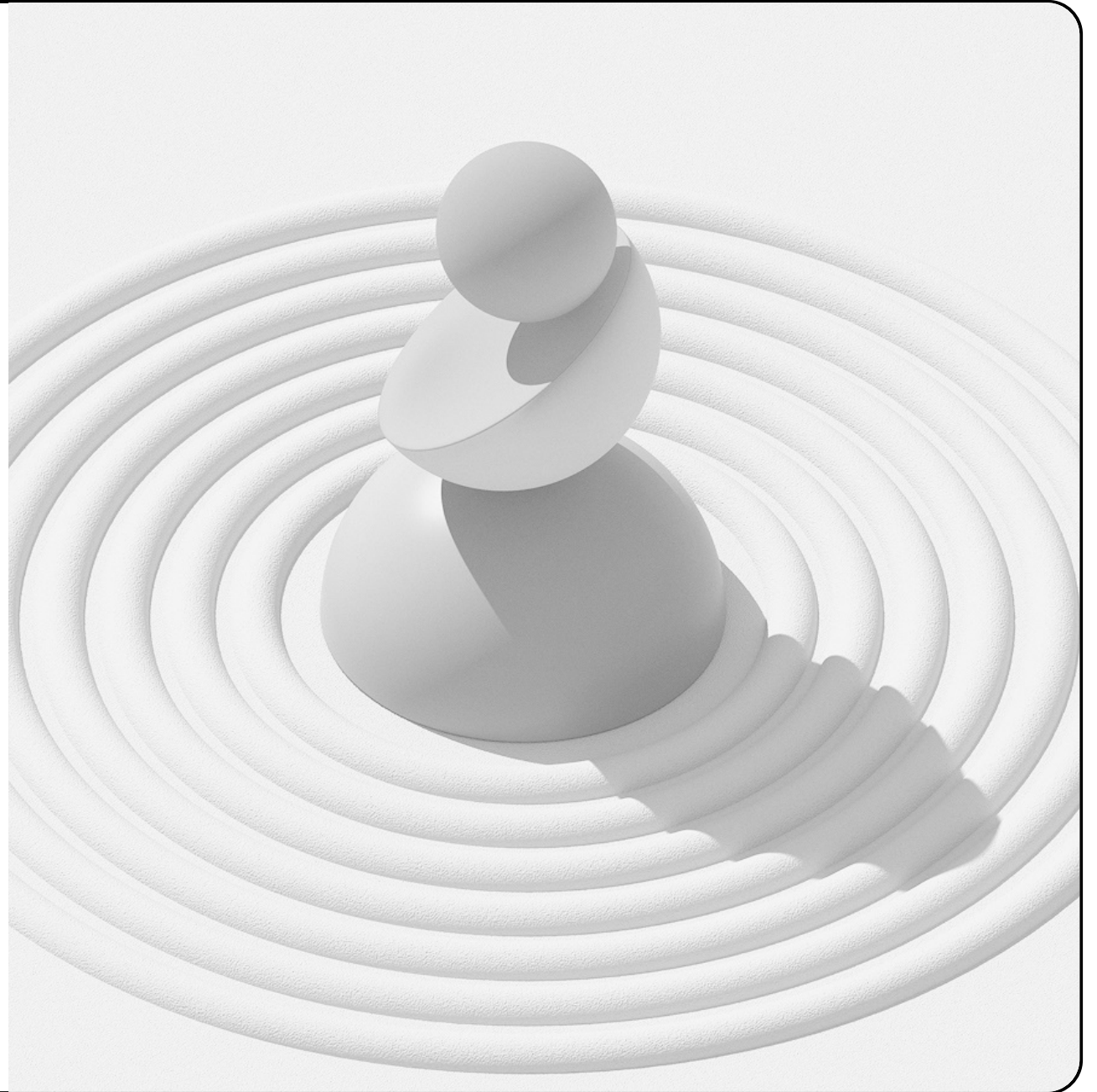
# CHALLENGES

Too many Ontarians are homeless. Some are due to mental health issues, recent release from institutions, addictions, and some priced out of the market.



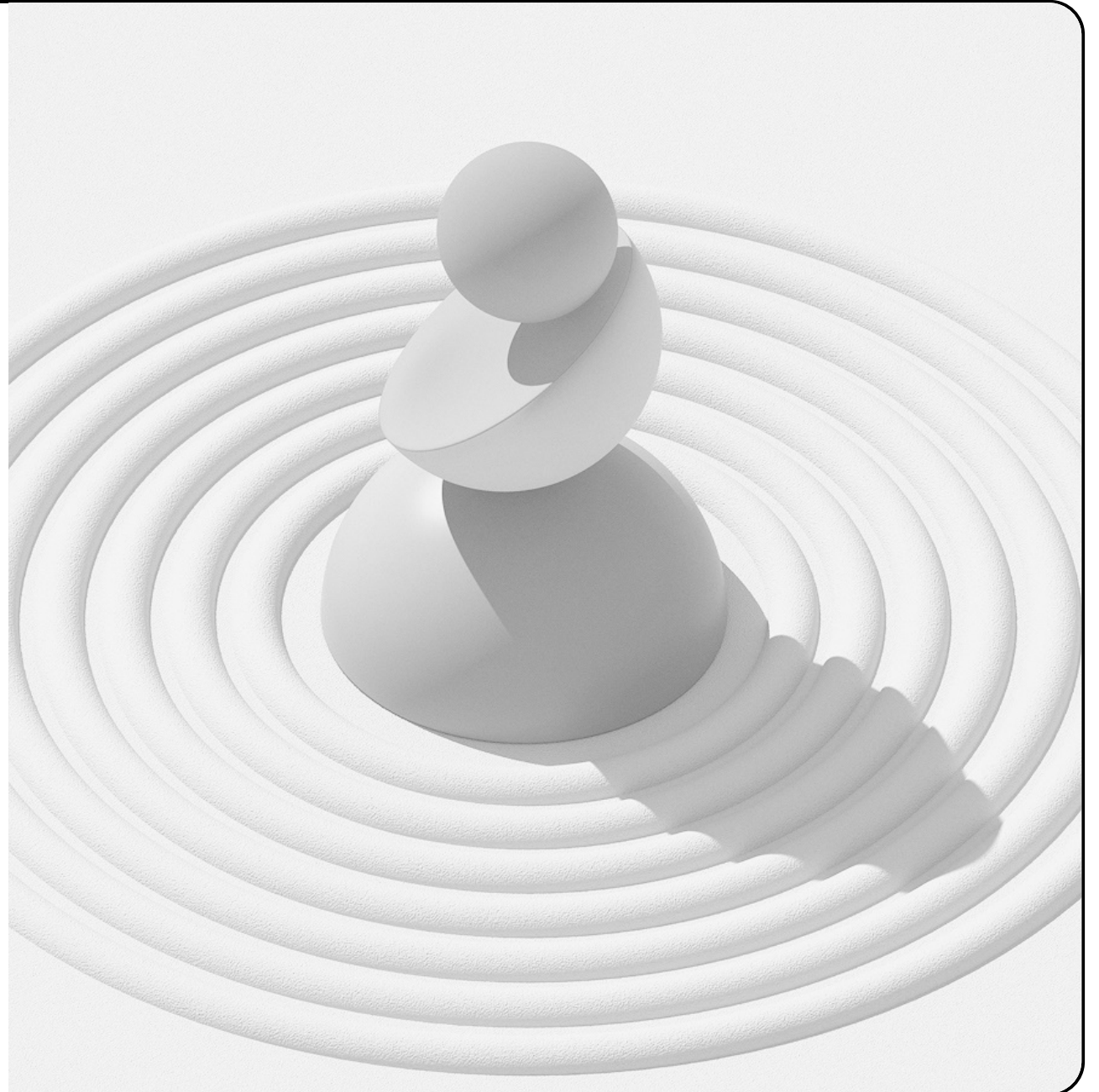
# CHALLENGES

Incarceration  
drives homelessness,  
and  
homelessness  
drives re-incarceration.



# HOW DID MANY BECOME UNHOUSED

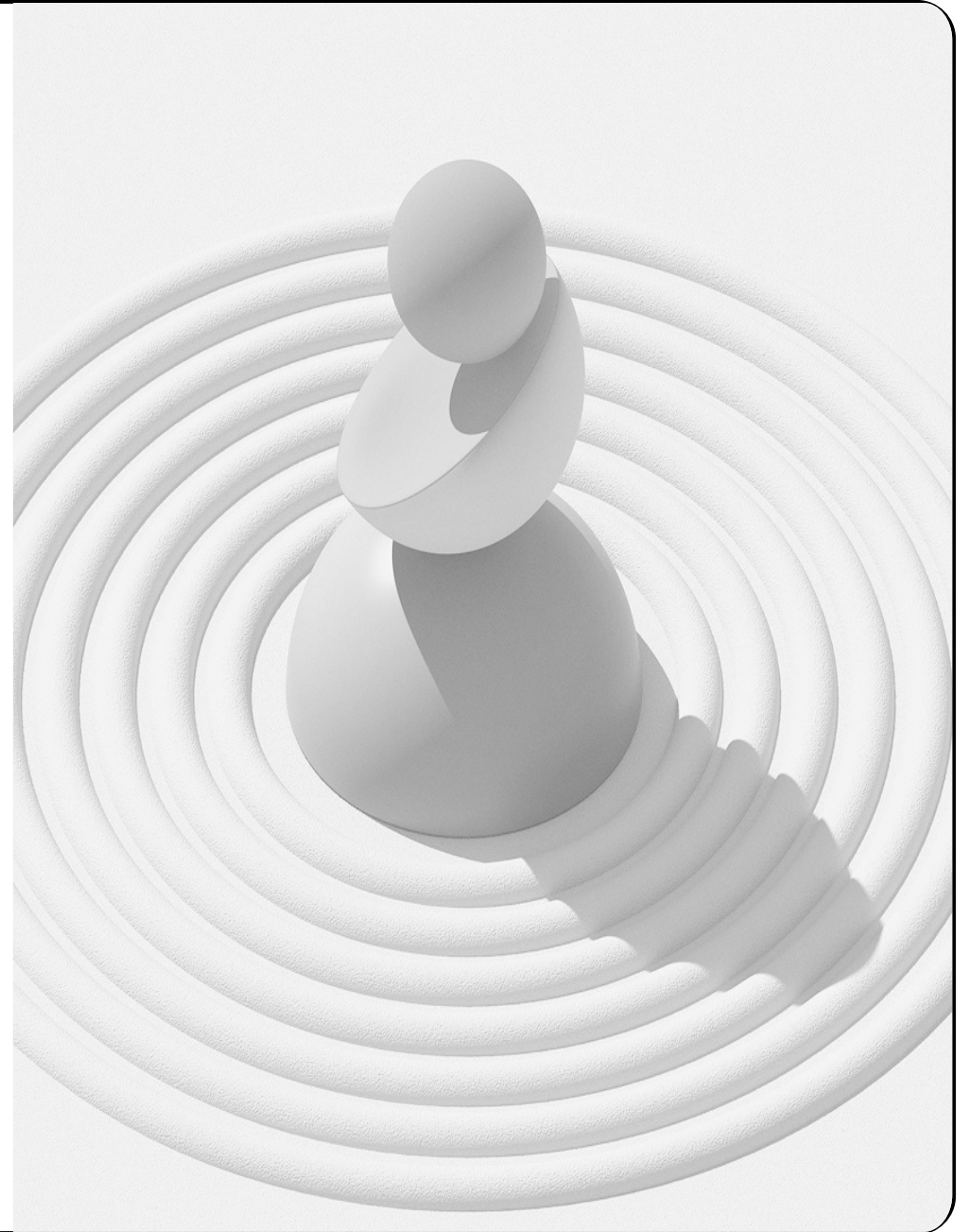
- High cost of living in Ontario and other parts of Canada
- High cost of rent and mortgages
- Lack of job security



# INDIVIDUALS LEAVING CUSTODY INTO HOMELESSNESS

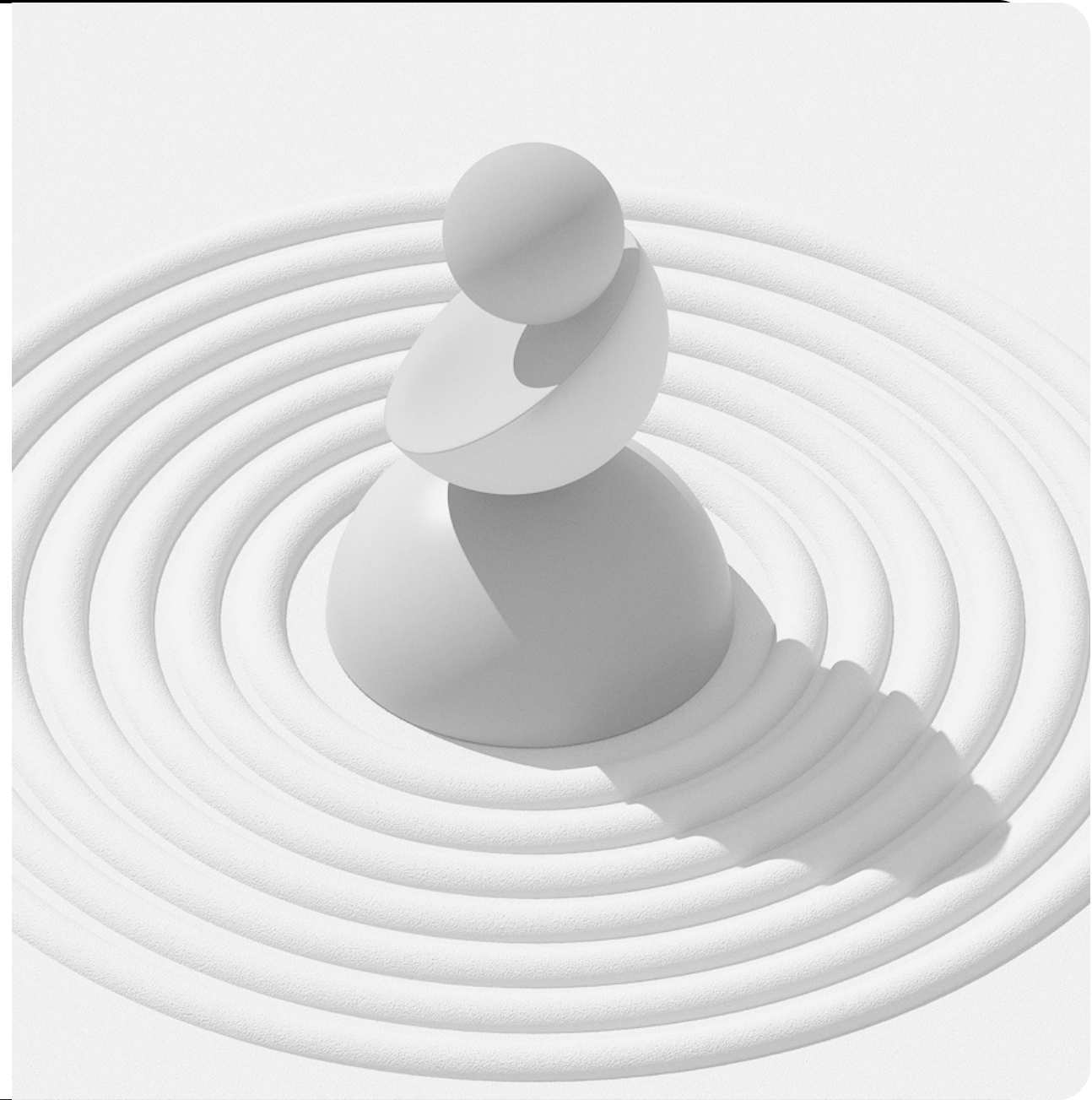
- over 7,400 people are released from provincial jails annually with no fixed address.
- Roughly 10% of Ontario's unhoused population are those released from provincial jails.

(JHS Ontario) data



# INDIVIDUALS LEAVING CUSTODY INTO HOMELESSNESS

- Over 40% of unhoused individuals with justice history report that their most recent housing loss was directly caused by their interaction with the justice system.



# OUR CLIENTELE CATEGORIES

HOMELESS	FACING HOMELESSNESS	SEEKING A HOME
Connect them with shelter and other services.	Determine if it is a personal, landlord or LTB matter.	Clients who are stably housed but is seeking a new place for one reason or another.
Add them to the Region's by-name list.	Provide the relevant advice or information, to include referral.	Clients who have lost a job or a family member moved out, or loss their job.
Provide them with immediate personal assistance.	Work with client and Realtor to find suitable place.	Ensure client can afford to cover their rent.

# HOUSING CHALLENGES FACED BY JUSTICE- INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

- Immediate Discharge Into Homelessness
- Systemic Discrimination by Landlords
- Severe Shortage of Low-Barrier housing supply
- Intersecting Vulnerabilities ie; race, nationality, income level, mental health status
- Onerous Eligibility to access services
- Unreasonably long waitlists



# **IMMEDIATE DISCHARGE INTO HOMELESSNESS**

- Provincial correctional systems record a person's housing status upon admission, not release. Many lose their rental units while incarcerated, leaving them to walk out of jail directly into emergency shelters or encampments without stable placement

# **SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION BY LANDLORD**

- Approximately 40% of justice-involved individuals report explicit discrimination, stigma, or denial by landlords and housing providers due to criminal background checks

# **SEVERE SHORTAGE OF LOW-BARRIER HOUSING SUPPLY**

- Ontario faces a critical shortage of public and private affordable units. Traditional housing options frequently reject individuals with complex needs, behavioral histories, or active substance use.

# **INTERSECTING VULNERABILITIES**

- A disproportionate number of justice-involved individuals identify as Black or Indigenous, or live with developmental disabilities, brain injuries, and mental illnesses. These intersections compound systemic biases and limit access to standard social infrastructure

# **ONEROUS ELIGIBILITY AND WAITLISTS**

- Community service agencies suffer from severe gridlock. Over 70% of individuals cite lengthy waitlists and strict administrative criteria as primary barriers to obtaining local housing or support services

# **EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO SUPPORTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

- Breaking this cycle requires moving away from fragmented, reactive patches and implementing structural, client-centered housing frameworks
- **What is needed: More justice-Focused Supportive Housing Models**
- Transitioning individuals directly into specialized supportive housing stabilizes their lives and reduces recidivism

## Examples:

- The Justice Transition Home (JTH; Restorative Justice Housing ;
- Youth specific Supportive housing ; cross sector integration and discharge planning.
- Low barrier Housing First and Rent Supplements ; Dedicated Community legal and systems navigation.

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK IMPACTING THE UNHOUSED AND VULNERABLE POPULATION IN ONTARIO.

- **Bill 6: Encampments and Bill 6 (Safer Municipalities Act)**
- To understand the province's direct approach to encampments, Bill 10 must be viewed alongside **Bill 6 (Safer Municipalities Act)**, which explicitly targets outdoor temporary shelters.
- **Severe Penalties:** Unhoused individuals residing in encampments who fail to comply with removal orders can face **fines up to \$10,000 and up to six months in prison.**

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK IMPACTING THE UNHOUSED AND VULNERABLE POPULATION IN ONTARIO.

- Bill 10: Landlord Liability and Supportive Housing Impact
- Passed as part of a legislative package, **Bill 10** (*Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act*)
- Bill 10 penalizes housing providers rather than helping them.
- **Increased Risk of Eviction:** Because "reasonable measures" are poorly defined, non-profit housing groups and commercial landlords face legal liabilities or a loss of provincial funding. Experts warn this will deter landlords from renting to vulnerable individuals, inadvertently forcing formerly housed people back into homelessness.

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK IMPACTING THE UNHOUSED AND VULNERABLE POPULATION IN ONTARIO.

- The Landmark Waterloo Court Decision (May 2026)
- In a historic ruling, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice formally recognized homelessness as an analogous ground of discrimination under Section 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- **Constitutional Protections:** The ruling explicitly establishes that unhoused individuals are rights-holders entitled to full Charter protection, dignity, and fairness.
- **Impact on Evictions:** Backed by the [Canadian Civil Liberties Association \(CCLA\)](#), the decision affirms that forcing people out of encampments without providing adequate, safe, and accessible housing alternatives constitutes a direct violation of their human rights.

# RESOURCES NEEDED

- Consistent and adequate Funding
- Better discharge planning
- Low barrier housing options
- Rent Supplement
- Housing dedicated to those living with Mental Health issues
- Justice Transition Homes



# CONTACT NUMBERS & E-MAIL

- 44 Peel Center Dr, Brampton
- 905-459-0001 – main line
- Extension 310
- Cellular phone 365-440-9070
- [jedwards@johnhowardphd.ca](mailto:jedwards@johnhowardphd.ca)

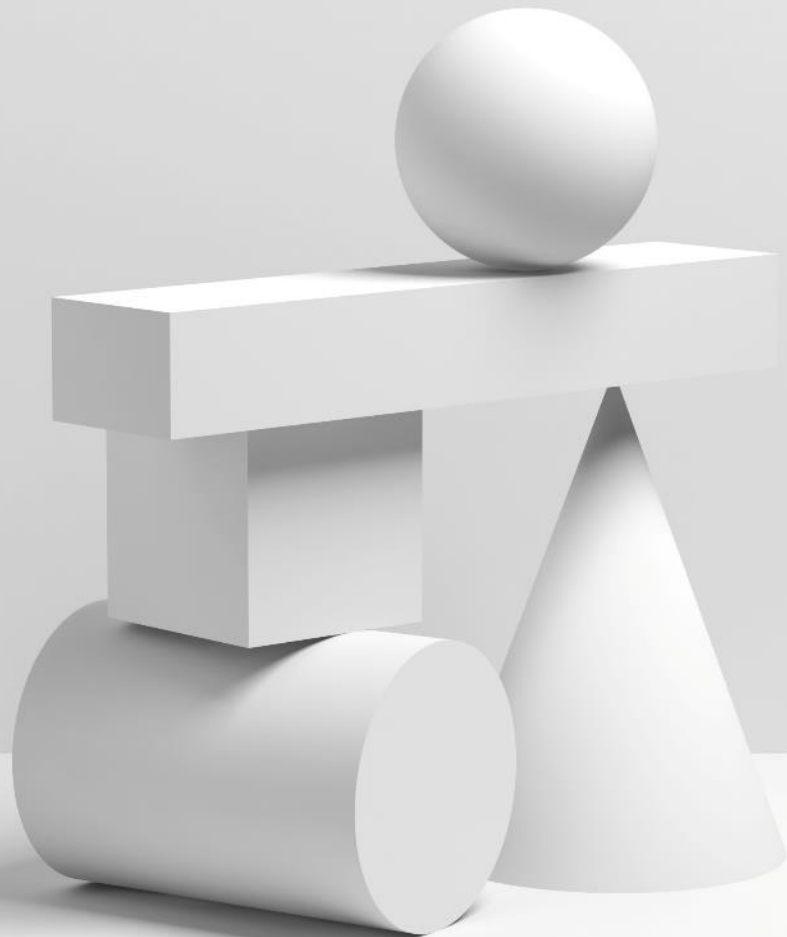


# QUOTE

- People who are homeless are not social inadequates. They are people without homes.

• Sheila McKechnie

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.



# Q & A

Time for your questions to be answered.