



PROVINCIAL COUNCIL FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



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ABOUT US

Established in 2008, PCMCH is a provincial organization that provides evidence-based and strategic leadership for perinatal, newborn, child and youth health services in Ontario. PCMCH is funded by the Government of Ontario.

Our Mission

To improve health outcomes and reduce inequities through effective leadership, collaborative partnerships and the use of evidence.

Our Vision

Optimal health and wellness for all pregnant women and individuals, newborns, children, youth and their families in Ontario.

Our Values

- Collaborative
- Responsive
- Inclusive
- Innovative
- Evidence-based

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND FIRST PEOPLES

PCMCH acknowledges with sincere gratitude the opportunity to work and live on this beautiful land that has been stewarded by First Nations since the beginning of time. This land, on which PCMCH operates, is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Wendat and Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek). Today, Toronto is covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty No. 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. Toronto is now home to Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island.

PCMCH recognizes that Indigenous practices of health and well-being have been in place in this territory since time began and are maintained to this day. We are committed to honoring and improving our knowledge on these practices. We recognize the harms and mistakes of the past and we take meaningful steps toward reconciliation by building and improving relationships with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Taking Meaningful Steps to Improve Health Outcomes

At PCMCH, we are committed to taking the tangible steps needed to strengthen Ontario's healthcare system and enhance perinatal, neonatal and paediatric care. Improving health outcomes for Ontario's pregnant women and individuals, babies, children and families is not just an aspiration for us; it's the foundation of everything we do.

In this annual report, you will find many examples of how we are working to improve perinatal, neonatal and paediatric health outcomes in Ontario. One of the ways we did this in FY 2024/25 was through the creation of evidence-based healthcare resources. Available in various formats – from webinars to in-person workshops to fact sheets – these resources cover a wide range of important topics, including supporting youth living with diabetes; supporting individuals who have experienced early pregnancy complication and loss; and preventing the spread of common respiratory illnesses, such as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). These resources support Ontario's healthcare providers and families by giving them the essential information they need.



Bruce Squires
Chair



Sanober Diaz
Executive Director

This past year, we continued to drive health system improvements – a strategic priority for PCMCH – through quality improvement projects such as the Emergency Department Paediatric Readiness (EDPR) initiative. The EDPR initiative strives to enhance emergency care for children by assessing the current state of paediatric readiness and identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement in Ontario's hospitals. In 2024, we were pleased to release the EDPR report, which summarizes the findings of a 2022 province-wide survey of hospitals, along with a user-friendly checklist that hospitals can use to self-assess their paediatric readiness.

By working collaboratively with our partners and contributors, PCMCH is taking steps to build a stronger, more resilient Ontario healthcare system – a system that not only meets the needs of today but also supports healthier futures for generations to come.

As always, we are grateful to the many individuals who make our work possible, including the PCMCH Secretariat, Governing Council, our partners and everyone who participates in our initiatives. We look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Resources for Indigenous Communities

Indigenous Peoples living in Ontario continue to face barriers in the healthcare system due to systemic racism and the lasting effects of colonization. To help address these disparities, PCMCH is strengthening its relationships with Indigenous organizations to ensure our efforts to improve health equity are guided by Indigenous voices.

This past year, we continued [our partnership](#) with the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC) to create health resources tailored for Indigenous communities. Together, we developed a [measles fact sheet](#) to provide clear information on how the virus spreads, the importance of being up to date with vaccinations and steps to take if exposed. We also partnered with IPHCC to launch an [RSV fact sheet](#) designed for Indigenous parents, families and caregivers, offering guidance on RSV prevention for infants and high-risk children. To ensure accessibility and cultural relevance, this fact sheet is available in six languages, including four Indigenous languages: Mohawk, Ojibwa, Cree and Inuktitut.

PCMCH remains committed to breaking down barriers and empowering Indigenous families with the information they need to make informed health decisions.



IPHCC-PCMCH
Measles Fact Sheet

IPHCC-PCMCH
RSV Fact Sheet for
Indigenous Families
and Caregivers



Advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

PCMCH is committed to advancing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) within our organization and in Ontario’s perinatal, neonatal and paediatric healthcare system.

We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive and equitable organization. Over the past fiscal year, we conducted internal staff readiness assessments to understand experiences, knowledge gaps and training needs. We developed an inclusive language guide in collaboration with BORN Ontario to ensure respectful and accessible communication. Additionally, we continue to increase representation from patient and family advisors and equity-deserving communities in our decision-making processes.

To advance EDI in the healthcare system, we developed resources to help healthcare providers better serve diverse communities. We expanded the availability of our infant [RSV prevention fact sheet](#) to seven additional languages beyond English – French, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Arabic, Italian, Punjabi and Spanish – making critical health information more accessible to diverse populations. We also engaged with organizations that support newcomers to Canada to identify healthcare barriers and build collaborative solutions.

Addressing systemic inequities in healthcare is an ongoing journey. We are grateful for the trust and collaboration of our partners and remain committed to fostering a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system for all families in Ontario.

Regional Maternal-Child Health Networks

Ontario’s regional maternal-child health networks (“regional networks”) strengthen linkages among maternal-child healthcare providers to improve health outcomes and health equity for perinatal, neonatal and paediatric populations within their respective catchment areas. The regional networks work closely with PCMCH to advance our shared goals.

In FY 2024/25, the regional networks continued to work collaboratively with [their partners](#) to meet the province’s evolving healthcare system needs, engaging with provincial entities, healthcare providers, their communities and others. They played a key role, for example, in distributing important healthcare resources – such as PCMCH’s respiratory syncytial virus ([RSV fact sheets](#)) – to parents and providers. They utilized their strong connections with hospitals to share and discuss the Emergency Department Paediatric Readiness ([EDPR initiative](#)) findings and readiness checklist, enhancing ED paediatric readiness across the province. And they continued to advance the [professional development](#) of healthcare providers – facilitating simulation-based training, virtual workshops, certification programs and more – to effectively address healthcare needs and gaps in their regions.

Through these efforts and many others, the regional networks are strengthening Ontario’s perinatal, neonatal and paediatric healthcare system, ensuring families receive the best possible care.



PCMCH social media post highlighting the Regional Networks

EDPR Initiative

Every child deserves high-quality emergency department (ED) care. As such, it is imperative that all EDs in Ontario are “paediatric ready” – a state achieved by having sufficient processes, resources and supports in place.

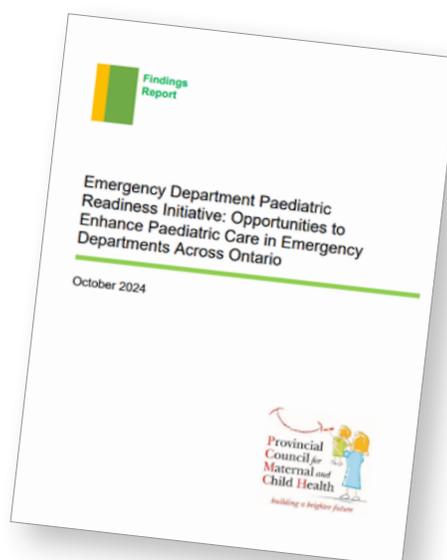
PCMCH’s [Emergency Department Paediatric Readiness](#) (EDPR) initiative is a quality improvement measure that aims to enhance emergency care for children across Ontario. It does so by:

- assessing the current state of paediatric readiness through a province-wide survey;
- identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement;
- sharing resources to help Ontario EDs enhance their paediatric readiness; and
- monitoring the provincial ED system’s progress in paediatric readiness over time.

In FY 2024/25, PCMCH published its [findings report](#) from the 2022 province-wide assessment survey that also identifies strengths and opportunities to drive quality improvement within organizations. In addition, we developed and shared a [user-friendly checklist](#) that hospitals can use to self-assess their paediatric readiness.

Through the EDPR initiative, PCMCH is working to ensure all children in the province receive the best possible care when they need it most. As part of our next steps, we are now engaging with system partners to identify opportunities for improvement.

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EDPR Findings Report



CCKO Expansion in Northern Ontario

[Complex Care for Kids Ontario \(CCKO\)](#) is a PCMCH-led provincial program aimed at supporting children with complex medical needs by providing coordinated care closer to home. By integrating healthcare and social support services, CCKO improves care continuity and access for families across Ontario. In FY 2024/25, PCMCH continued to develop and expand the CCKO sites in Northern Ontario: Health Sciences North (HSN) and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC).

The HSN CCKO Complex Care clinic, launched in 2024, successfully onboarded a nurse practitioner, established care procedures and continued to collaborate with tertiary sites. HSN is currently providing care to patients with medical complexity and is collaborating with the SickKids' Complex Care team to develop processes to transition Northeastern Ontario patients from SickKids to be seen closer to home. The site will continue expanding services while building community awareness to support more children in Northeastern Ontario.

TBRHSC aims to provide care closer to home in Northwestern Ontario. TBRHSC has successfully onboarded a nurse practitioner and is currently collaborating with community and tertiary partners in preparation for the launch of its complex care clinic in FY 2025/26. TBRHSC will work closely with the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) Complex Care team to develop a collaborative care model that enables Northwestern patients to be transitioned from LHSC to receive care locally in Thunder Bay.

The HSN and TBRHSC CCKO sites will continue strengthening local complex care clinics to ensure that patients and families in Northern Ontario receive high-quality, patient- and family-centred care close to home as much as possible.

Respiratory Viruses and Immunizations

PCMCH is dedicated to improving health outcomes for pregnant individuals, newborns, children, youth and their families. A key part of this work is providing evidence-based resources to help healthcare providers and the public navigate pressing health challenges, such as the spread of respiratory viruses.

In FY 2024/25, in alignment with Ontario’s expanded respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) prevention program, we developed [fact sheets](#) to help healthcare providers, and parents and expectant parents understand the impact of RSV on infants and high-risk children. These resources share essential information about RSV and explain immunization options.

To further support families and providers, PCMCH launched a Respiratory Illnesses and Immunizations [webpage](#). This page offers up-to-date information and evidence-informed resources on common respiratory viruses and available immunizations, featuring materials from PCMCH, government agencies, and healthcare organizations.

We are grateful to our partners, subject matter experts, and patient and family advisors for their contributions to these efforts, ensuring families across Ontario have the information they need to keep their children healthy.



Early Pregnancy Complications and Loss Workshop

In Ontario, individuals experiencing early pregnancy complications and loss often struggle to access timely, specialized and compassionate care. For many, the emergency department is their first point of contact, highlighting the need for improved care pathways.

On October 8, 2024, a diverse group of healthcare professionals, government representatives and individuals with lived experience convened to participate in the workshop aimed to collaboratively explore solutions for improving care for individuals experiencing early pregnancy complications and loss in Ontario. Co-hosted by PCMCH, the PAIL Network and BORN Ontario, this event highlighted the importance of innovative solutions and implementation pathways to improve care across the province.

This workshop brought together individuals from diverse settings to explore the lived experiences of individuals and examine a variety of existing and innovative care models currently in practice. Presentations described how these models align with the recommendations set forth in Ontario’s Quality Standard for Early Pregnancy Complications and identified areas for improvement. Participants shared key insights and strategies and collaborated to develop actionable recommendations to enhance the quality of care for individuals and families experiencing early pregnancy complications and loss.

[Read](#) the Summary Report for the Early Pregnancy Complications and Loss Workshop.



Brochure for Early Pregnancy Complications and Loss Workshop



OPBN Education Hub

On March 24, 2025, PCMCH's [Ontario Paediatric Bariatric Network \(OPBN\)](#) successfully hosted the inaugural meeting for its new Education Hub at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

The OPBN is comprised of 12 clinics delivering medical management of paediatric obesity, with one site also incorporating bariatric surgery as a treatment option for adolescents. Through the creation of a comprehensive and flexible Education Hub, the OPBN aims to empower stakeholders, significantly enhance timely and effective patient care across the network and address diverse patient and family needs.

Attended by 73 members of the OPBN, the inaugural meeting marked a major milestone in the development of the Education Hub. During the event, clinical staff representatives shared insights about their respective programs, including strengths and gaps. Attendees also participated in engagement activities as well as brainstorming sessions to discuss the Hub's future priorities and define measures of success.

The SickKids Healthy Living Clinic, as the coordinating site, will continue leading the development and delivery of the Education Hub across the network with oversight from PCMCH. An OPBN Steering Committee is being established with members from across the OPBN sites who will advise on key priorities and oversee implementation.

PDN Rounds and Webinars

PCMCH supports improvements to the provision of paediatric diabetes care in Ontario by organizing and hosting complex case rounds and webinars for the [Paediatric Diabetes Network \(PDN\)](#).

Coordinated by PCMCH since 2013, the PDN is comprised of 35 specialized paediatric diabetes education programs (PDEPs) located primarily in hospitals and community health centres across Ontario.

In FY 2024/25, the PDN held two complex case rounds led by clinical staff from the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario and The Hospital for Sick Children. These rounds focused on management of type 2 diabetes and psychological risk assessment for type 1 diabetes, providing opportunities for PDEP staff to learn from each other.

Intended to complement the rounds and address emerging topics in paediatric diabetes management, the PDN webinars are open to the broader paediatric healthcare community and primary care providers. In FY 2024/25, the PDN hosted three webinars:

- [Addressing Stigma, Insulin Omission for Weight Loss, and the Power of Support](#)
- [Supporting Youth Living with Diabetes Through Their Transition to Post-Secondary School](#)
- Diabetes in School: Examining the Gap Between Policy and Practice

Webinar presenters included staff from diabetes organizations (Diabetes Hope Foundation), researchers and clinicians within and outside of Ontario (McMaster University and McGill University), and people with lived experience of diabetes (caregivers and young adults).

GOVERNING COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SECRETARIAT

Governing Council

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Eyal Cohen
Marilyn Crabtree
Sanober Diaz
Crystal Edwards
'Remi Ejiwunmi
Vera Etches
Anna Greenberg
Astrid Guttmann
Julia Hanigsberg
Judy Linton
Shannon Maier
Sean Murray
Stephanie Redpath
Paul Roumeliotis
Prakesh Shah
Alicia St. Hill
Ru Taggar
Kristin Taylor
Ziyaad Vahed

Child and Youth Committee

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Irene Andress
Jodi Brereton
Josee Blackburn
Teresa Bruni
Michael Casas
Sue Chanko
Darcia Curtis
Smita Dhakal
Sanober Diaz
Bonnie Fleming-Carroll

Michelle Gordon
Anna Gunz
Kerri Hannon
Mona Jabbour
Kimberley McClean
Alison McPhedran
Angelo Mikrogianakis
Caryn Nero
Julia Orkin
Lisa Osqui
Brenda Weitzner

Maternal-Newborn Committee

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Addie Chilcott
Melanie Colpitts
Bhakti Dattani
Cherish DeCaire
Sanober Diaz
Crystal Edwards
Darine El-Chaâr
Susan Ellis
Kelly Falzon
Brittany Groom
Kerri Hannon
Lindsay Hogeboom
Lorena Jenks
Jasmine Lalonde
Sarah Lawrence
Erin Oakley-Thorp
Lauren Rivard
Alicia St. Hill
Kristin Taylor
Alexandra Thorp
Nisha Walibhai
Katie Zammit

Ontario Health-PCMCH Neonatal Pediatric Transport Committee

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Judy Van Clieaf (*Co-Chair*)
Alun Ackery
Fuad Alnaji
Robert Barnett
Hannah Brooks
Teresa Bruni
Cynthia Cupido
Andrea Demers
Sanober Diaz
Tammy DiGiovanni
Leslie Gillies
Isabel Hayward
Robin Horodyski
Shannon Janzen
Linda Lalani
Kyong-Soon Lee
Fabiano Medugno
Caryn Nero
Melissa Roney
Henry Roukema
Susan Picarello
Paul Preston
Kristin Raikums
Michael Sanderson
Bruce Sawadsky
Prakesh Shah
Jeanne Thomas
Lindsey Thompson
Alexandra Thorp
Cindy VandeVyvere
Adam Vinet
Hilary Whyte
Deborah Wiseman

Complex Care for Kids Ontario (CCKO) Leadership Table

Sanober Diaz (*Chair*)
Irene Andress
Nichole Bechard
Teresa Bruni
Jennifer Churchill
Eyal Cohen
Paula Crotteau
Smita Dhakal
Sylvie Graham
Michelle Gordon
Valerie Holmes
Nancy Horan
Lara Keable-John
Sophia Lawson
Audrey Lim
Alison McPhedran
Sean Murray
Rahul Ojha
Julia Orkin
Lisa Osqui
Tanja Patry
Diane Paradis
Shannon Reaume
Joanna Soscia
Rajwant Sousa
Karen Taillefer
Leah Tattum
Marta Wagner

CCKO NEOKids/ SickKids Pilot Working Group

Sherry Adams
Smita Dhakal
Nancy Horan
Carly Mauro
Alison McPhedran
Sean Murray

Julia Orkin
Lisa Osqui
Joanna Soscia

**Early Pregnancy
Complications and
Loss Workshop Agenda
Planning Committee**

Bhakti Dattani
Sanobar Diaz
Kelly Falzon
Allison Hall
Michelle La Fontaine
Marnie Lightfoot
Pallavi Sriram
Alicia St. Hill
Alexandra Thorp
Modupe Tunde-Byass
Catherine Varner

**Emergency Department
Paediatric Readiness
(EDPR) Advisory Group**

Mona Jabbour (*Co-Chair*)
Rebecca Liebau
(*Co-Chair*)
Kashif Ahmed
Kylie Booth
Andrea Boysen
Amy Burton
Rikki Hendrickson
Hilary Hewes
Marion Knutson
Rodrick Lim
Lilian Lin
Jennifer McTaggart
Julia Orkin
Kristen Raiskums
Amit Shah
Michele Sloss
Laura Zahreddine

**Ontario Cleft Lip and
Palate/Craniofacial
Dental Program –
Dental Directors’
Subcommittee**

Michael Casas (*Chair*)
Gabriella Garisto
Stephanie Lauziere
Becky Olacke
James Noble
Peter Pannozzo
Gordon Payne
Anne Young

**Ontario Cleft Lip and
Palate/Craniofacial
Dental Program –
Operational
Advisory Committee**

Lesley Tarasoff (*Chair*)
Rahil Begg
Sonya Bianchet
Tonia Bryans
Michael Casas
Donovan Cooper
Kerry Fahey
Gabriella Garisto
Samantha Horvath
Karen Kinnear
Bala Kumbakonam
Stephanie Lauziere
Karen Margallo
Christina Mellies
James Noble
Becky Olacke
Jeannie
Panagiotopoulos
Peter Pannozzo
Gordon Payne
Sharon Samaan
Kimberly Taylor

Trish Wilson
Tanya Wishloff-Hunt
Anne Young

**Ontario Paediatric
Bariatric Network
(OPBN) Advisory
Committee**

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(*Co-Chair*)
Chelsea Adair
Theresa Barber-Pin
Sarah Barker
Teresa Bruni
Evelyn Brydges
Annick Buchholz
Becky Burton
Laurie Clark
Phoebe-ann Foley
Stasia Hadjiyannakis
Jill Hamilton
Jaimie Kennedy
Lilian Lin
Allie Loughheed
Gina Maloney
Gordon McSheffrey
Katherine Morrison
Haley Nyboer
Lisa Osqui
Kayleigh Rampersad
Shabina Rangarej
Andrea Regina
Jennifer Restivo
Deniece Roswell
Rajwant Sousa
Tara West
Marina Ybarra
Ian Zenlea

**OPBN Performance
Measurement
and Evaluation
Working Group**

Catherine Birken
(*Co-Chair*)
Katherine Morrison
(*Co-Chair*)
Janice Austin
Matthew Belviso
Laurie Clark
Jill Hamilton
Glenn Jenkins
Lilian Lin
Gina Maloney
Haley Nyboer
Lisa Osqui
Andrea Regina
Jane Rutherford
Michela Savoia
Tara West
Jennifer Yu

**Ontario Perinatal
Record (OPR)**

Task Force
Brittany Groom (*Chair*)
Robyn Berman
Anne Biringer
Deborah Bonser
Nicolette Caccia
Marilyn Crabtree
Christine Dallaire
Sanobar Diaz
Shelley Dougan
Catherine Gascon
Marie Greer-King
Brittany Groom
Mayura Kandasamy
Jewell Kirkopoulos
Jennifer Mercer
Carina Qiao

Paige Ricketts
Jordan Schmidt
Sridevi Veluganti
Kerri Wilson Smith
Katherine Wallace
Daniel Warshafsky

**Paediatric Diabetes
Network (PDN)**

Leadership Table

Alexandra Ahmet
(Co-Chair)
Alanna Landry *(Co-Chair)*
Grace Bannerman
Shaun Barrett
Carlie Anne Bigras
Smita Dhakal
Ryan Emond
Jacquie Filteau
Nicole Forget
Jess Forster
Marley Greenberg
Nancy Horan
Michelle Kolobutin
Tiffany Krahn
Alison McPhedran
Maria Mirzoyan
Hannah Ohman
Priaveena Piremathasan
Chelsey Poelman
Denise Powe
Alina Siddiqui
Josée St-Denis
Lesley Tarasoff
Ian Zenlea

PCMCH-BORN Ontario

Paediatric Diabetes

Registry (PDR)

Executive Steering

Committee

Sanober Diaz *(Co-Chair)*
Alicia St.Hill *(Co-Chair)*
Jennifer Anderson
Tihana Antic
Lola Brown
Tudor Chirila
Mireille Cloutier
Ellen Goldbloom
Sarah Hamilton
Alanna Landry
Jenny Merla
Ruth Oladeru
Jennifer Osesky
Ethan Parikh
Rayzel Shulman
Elizabeth Stevens
Josée St-Denis
Lesley Tarasoff
Ian Zenlea

PCMCH-POGO

Provincial Paediatric

Palliative Care Steering

Committee (PPPC-SC)

Mark Greenberg
(Co-Chair)
Adam Rapoport
(Co-Chair)
Carla Bennett
Susan Blacker
Deanna Bryant
Sanober Diaz

Julie Drury
Lauren Ettin
Kelly Finlayson
Kardi Kennedy
Valerie McDonald
Rajwant Sousa
Bruce Squires
Lesley Tarasoff
Kim Widger
Megan Wright

Regional Networks

Operational Forum

(RNOF)

Kerri Hannon *(Co-Chair)*
Julia Orkin *(Co-Chair)*
Anne Bédard
Alis Bonsignore
Josée Blackburn
Jon Brunetti
Emma Esselink
Kim Felker
Mackenzie Heath
Jaclyn
Hornby-Piltzmaker
Martha Hunter
Shivali Kaushal
Natalie Kennedy
Crystal Lawrence
Marnie Lightfoot
Shama Malik
Caryn Nero
Carina Qiao
Darlene Rose
Tina Sakr
Alicia St. Hill
Laura Zahreddine

PCMCH Secretariat

Sanober Diaz
(Executive Director)
Danielle Alcock
Sinaa Dabbagh
Bhakti Dattani
Smita Dhakal
John Gilson
Brittany Groom
Allison Hall
Lilian Lin
Alison McPhedran
Alexa Minichiello
(practicum student)
Maria Mirzoyan
Lisa Osqui
Carina Qiao
Lesley Tarasoff
Alexandra Thorp
Laura Zahreddine



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