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Archived: June 3, 2025 9:58:18 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Mon, 14 Apr 2025 19:32:32
To: [redacted]
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Clarification on Work Authorization on SOWP - REP-A-2025-0791 - Due 16-Apr-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,
[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox.**
Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the IRCC Web form.
Please see our response to your question.
***
Your question is very case specific. We can provide general information for you to determine how it may pertain in any case.

You may find these resources useful:

- * I applied for a new work permit. Can I stay in Canada if my work permit expires?
- * Can I keep working if my permit expires? How do I prove this to my employer?
- * To submit a IRCC Web form - Canada.ca.
- * To check status online at How to check your application status - Canada.ca.

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[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From: [redacted]
Sent: [redacted] 5, 2025 7:05 PM
[redacted]
Subject: Clarification on Work Authorization on SOWP

> **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Government of Canada. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
> **ATTENTION:** Ce courriel provient de l'extérieur du gouvernement du Canada. Ne cliquez pas sur les liens et n'ouvrez pas les pièces jointes sauf si vous reconnaissez l'expéditeur et sachez que le contenu est sûr.

Dear Sir/Ma'am,
I am a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant and I am regulated by CICC under the below mentioned credentials:-
Name: [redacted]
RCIC # [redacted]

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I would appreciate your guidance on a situation where an individual held an open work permit (SOWP) tied to their spouse's study permit. Since the study permit was set to expire before the completion of the program, the couple applied for a study permit extension and an SOWP renewal approximately four months before their current status expired.

Upon submitting the SOWP extension application, the applicant received a WP-EXT Except PGWP letter, allowing continued work authorization for six months. However, before a decision was made on this application, the spouse completed their studies, and the applicant's original SOWP expired. At that point, they applied for a PGWP and a new SOWP but did not receive a work authorization letter tied to the PGWP application.

Approximately 1.5 months after submitting the PGWP and SOWP applications, the study permit extension and the initial SOWP renewal were approved for an additional six months. Now, as this extended SOWP is nearing expiry in a few days. Also, the PGWP and associated SOWP applications remain in process, with no decision made in almost six months.

In such a scenario, could you clarify:

1. Whether the SOWP applicant can continue working under implied status while the PGWP and SOWP applications are still in progress?

2. What happens once the extended SOWP expires—can they continue working or must they wait for a decision?

Your guidance on how to proceed in such cases would be highly valuable. Looking forward to your guidance, so that we help our clients in a better way. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

[redacted]
RCIC