Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 10:20:55 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Thu, 13 Feb 2025 17:37:01
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: URGENT: Question About Dependent Open Work Permits for Spouses of Start-Up Visa Applicants - REP-2025-0095- Due 12-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Hello,

Please see our response to your question.

Question:

Can you please advise how the following rules impact spouses of Start-Up Visa applicants? Changes to open work permits for family members of temporary residents - Canada.ca

The principal applicants in a Start-Up Visa application typically hold a senior TEER 0 or 1 position such as CEO, CFO; however, they are entrepreneurs and founders of their own business and will not have an 'employer' to confirm their duties/NOC.

Please advise if spouses of Start-Up Visa applicants will continue to qualify for an open spousal work permit and what documentation will be accepted to demonstrate their eligibility.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Response:

Spouses of workers who have already applied for PR or who hold/are approved for a work permit related to a PR program – even if they have not yet submitted a PR application – will be exempt from the restrictions that came effect on January 21, 2025. In the latter scenario, the PR programs include:

- * the Provincial Nominee Program;
- * Provincial business candidates or Quebec self-employed applicants approved for a Certificat de sélection du Québec (CSQ) seeking eventual PR;
- * CSQ holders currently outside Quebec;
- * Quebec investors;
- * CSQ holders currently in Quebec;
- * the Start-up Visa Program;
- * the Atlantic Immigration Program;
- * Agri-Food Pilot;
- * Yukon Community Pilot; and
- * Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (ended August 31, 2024).

Spouses of workers selected for the pending Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP) and Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP) will also be exempt from these changes.

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The eligibility criteria for these spouses will remain unchanged. Per status quo, the principal worker can be in any TEER category/occupation, and need only have 6 months left on their work permit for their spouse to qualify.

Please visit our website for more information on Program delivery update: Public policy, competitiveness or economy [R205(c)(ii) – C41, C46, C47, C48, C49] – Canadian interest – International Mobility Program - Canada.ca.

We hope this information is of assistance.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 15 janvier 2025 13:27
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Objet : URGENT: Question About Dependent Open Work Permits for Spouses of Start-Up Visa Applicants
Importance : Haute

[redacted]

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Kind Regards,

Page 510

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