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Archived: June 2, 2025 10:33:39 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Tue, 25 Feb 2025 16:47:26
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Eligibility Criteria for Spousal Work Permits Under Start-up Visa Program - REP-2025-0247 - Due 21-Feb-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.

Question:

Hope this helps find you well. We noticed that the IRCC webpage ("Webpage"; Link: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/start-visa/work-permits/eligibility.htm) regarding spousal work permits for Start-up Visa (SUV) applicants was updated on January 22, 2025.

To ensure we have a clear understanding of the impact of this change, we would like to clarify whether spouses of workers under the SUV program will only be eligible for an open work permit if the workers have at least 16 months remaining on their work permits at the time their spouses apply for the open work permit. We noted this requirement mentioned in the linked webpages (see below links) associated with the recent update. However, one of the links also states that spouses of workers "transitioning to permanent residence will not be impacted by these changes."

Given that workers under the SUV program are applicants for permanent residency and that the work permits serve as a precursor to permanent residence, we would greatly appreciate your clarification on whether this new requirement [redacted] lies to spouses [redacted] workers under the SUV program. [redacted] to [redacted] from you.

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/open-work-permit-spouses-dependent-children.html#high-skilled
https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/changes-open-work-permits-family-members-temporary-residents.html

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;

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- * 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 Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP) and Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP) are also exempted from these changes.

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 : 23 janvier 2025 19:53
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Cc
Objet : Eligibility Criteria for Spousal Work Permits Under Start-up Visa Program

Dear Officer,

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https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/open-work-permit-

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Best Regards,