Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:37:41 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Wed, 5 Mar 2025 20:14:59
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Question regarding open spousal work permit extensions - REP-2025-0486 - Due 12-Mar-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,

Please note that this service provides guidance and not case-specific advice. Therefore, our responses reflect general information.

Question

With respect to the updated guidance for open spousal work permits, the guidance is vague for extension applications for the spouse, with the requirement for the 16 month work permit of the principal foreign national applicant.

For example, if a principal applicant and their spouse came to Canada initially on a work permit (closed work permit for principal applicant and open spousal work permit for the spouse), their work permits would be valid to the same date in most cases. In a case where both work permits are valid until April 1, 2025, there would not be 16 months validity for the principal applicant at the time of the spouse's open spousal work permit extension application.

Please confirm that as long as the NOC requirements are met, for the purposes of extension applications, that as long as the extension is for at least a 16 month duration or more, that the spouse continues to qualify for the open spousal work permit as long as they are filed at the same time, or if with this update, they no longer qualify and must change to visitor status.

Response

Please find details on the website, specifically in section "Applications received as a family group" Spouses or common-law partners of foreign nationals authorized to work in high-skilled occupations TEER 0 or 1, or select occupations TEER 2 or 3 – [R205(c)(ii) – C41] – Canadian interest – International Mobility Program (IMP) - Canada.ca.

Other web pages you may find useful:
Spouses or common-law partners of foreign nationals authorized to work in high-skilled occupations TEER 0 or 1, or select occupations TEER 2 or 3 – [R205(c)(ii) – C41] – Canadian interest – International Mobility Program (IMP) - Canada.ca

Open work permits for family members of foreign workers: Who can apply - Canada.ca

Hope this information is helpful to you.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Sent: [redacted] [redacted] 11, 2025 1:24 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Subject: Question regarding open spousal work permit extensions
Importance: High

Dear Sir/Madam:

With respect to the updated guidance for open spousal work permits, the guidance is vague for extension applications for the spouse, with the requirement for the 16 month work permit of the principal foreign national applicant.

For example, if a principal applicant and their spouse came to Canada initially on a work permit (closed work permit for principal applicant and open spousal work permit for the spouse), their work permits would be valid to the same date in most cases. In a case where both work permits are valid until April 1, 2025, there would not be 16 months validity for the principal applicant at the time of the spouse's open spousal work permit extension application.

Please confirm that as long as the NOC requirements are met, for the purposes of extension applications, that as long as the extension is for at least a 16 month duration or more, that the spouse continues to qualify for the open spousal work permit as long as they are filed at the same time, or if with this update, they no longer qualify and must change to visitor status.

Thank you,