Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:37:44 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Wed, 5 Mar 2025 20:15:59
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Open work permit of spouses of FTA workers - REP-2025-0282 - Due 26-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Hello

[redacted] to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Immigration Representatives mailbox. We appreciate your patience.

Note that this service provides guidance and not case-specific advice.

Please find the answers to your questions below:

Questions

Can spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements apply for an open work permit, regardless of their TEER and occupation?

- Must the duration of the main applicant's FTA work permit be of at least 6 (six) months, 16 (sixteen) months, or any other duration?

Responses

If the spouse is covered by an FTA, they are subject to the TEER and occupation requirements outlined in the relevant Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

There is no requirement for the work permit validity period of the main FTA applicant as they (the spouse) have their specific exemption [redacted] under the [redacted] work permit [redacted] to the [redacted] the PA [redacted] the length of validity.

For more information, please consult the following webpages:

International Mobility Program: International free trade agreements - Canada.ca

We hope this information is of assistance. Do not hesitate to reach out again if you required further clarification.

Sincerely,

Immigration Representatives Mailbox

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De :
Envoyé : 28 janvier 2025 10:08
[redacted]: Immigration Representatives [redacted] Représentants immigration [redacted]
Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Objet : Open work permit of spouses of FTA workers

Dear officer,

My name is [redacted] a lawyer member [redacted] of the Barreau du Québec.

I kindly seek clarification in respect to the open work permit for accompanying spouses and common-law partners of foreign workers holding a closed work permit through a Free trade agreement.

The reason for my question is that on one hand, instructions published on https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/open-work-permit-spouses-dependent-children/eligibility.html speak of the spousal open work permits for applicants in a PR process, or of workers with a 16-month or longer work permit in TEER 0, 1, and certain TEER 2 or 3 occupations.

However, there is no reference to FTAs.

On the other hand, the January 14, 2025 news release published on https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/changes-open-work-permits-family-members-temporary-residents.html states:

"Spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements and those transitioning to permanent residence will not be impacted by these changes."

Because the January 14 announcement mentioning persons transitioning to PR was published in the instructions for spousal open work permits, while the spouses of workers covered by FTAs are not in the instructions, my question is:

- Can spouses of workers covered by free-trade agreements apply for an open work permit, regardless of their TEER and occupation?
- Must the duration of the main applicant's FTA work permit be of at least 6 (six) months, 16 (sixteen) months, or any other duration?

I [redacted]. [redacted] response [redacted] the [redacted]

Kindest regards,

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