Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
Information disclosed under the Access to Information Act
L'information divulguée en vertu de la loi sur l'accès à l'information

Archived: June 2, 2025 11:38:32 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Fri, 7 Mar 2025 20:24:36
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: CUSMA - Spouse Open Work Permit - REP-2025-0376 - Due 5-Mar-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Hello

\sb160

\sb160Thank you for your email correspondence to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Immigration Representatives mailbox. We appreciate your patience.

\sb160Note that this service provides guidance and not case-specific advice.

\sb160Please find the answers to your questions below:

\sb160

Question

A follow-up on my question below as there is also no mention of the Free Trade Agreement exemption for spousal open work permits in the PDU released on February 3, 2025.

Response

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

For example, the spousal work permit would be issued to the same validity as the PA's document regardless of the length of validity.

Those who are not covered under their FTA are subject to the new requirements including the 16 months rules. 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) – [C41]

For more information, please consult the following webpages:

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

\sb160We hope this information is of assistance. Do not hesitate to reach out again if you required further clarification.

Sincerely,

Immigration Representatives Mailbox

\sb160

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada | Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
Information disclosed under the Access to Information Act
L'information divulguée en vertu de la loi sur l'accès à l'information

De :
Envoyé : 4 février 2025 10:23
[redacted]
Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]ca>
Objet : RE: CUSMA - Spouse Open Work Permit

[redacted]

A follow-up on my question below as there is also no mention of the Free Trade Agreement exemption for spousal open work permits in the PDU released on February 3, 2025.

Thank you,

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/foreign-workers/exemption-codes/public-policy-competitiveness-economy/spouses-common-law-authorized-work-high-skilled-occupations.html

From:
Sent: February 1, 2025 8:07 AM
[redacted]
Subject: CUSMA - Spouse Open Work Permit

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
Information disclosed under the Access to Information Act
L'information divulguée en vertu de la loi sur l'accès à l'information

[redacted]

Are TEER 2 and TEER 3 spouses of foreign workers under CUSMA who are not in one of the select high skilled occupations listed (for example Graphic Designer), eligible to apply for an open work permit. In other words, is CUSMA one of the eligible free trade agreements?

Is there a list of the FTAs that are included/excluded from the new spousal open work permit rules?

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/open-work-permit-spouses-dependent-children/eligibility.html

Thank you,