Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:47:56 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 11 Mar 2025 19:41:00
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Changes to Spousal Open Work Permits for family members of temporary residents - REP-2025-0168- Due 13-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:

Question

The announcement indicates that: "Spouses of workers covered by **free-trade agreements** and those transitioning to permanent residence will not be impacted by these changes." Would you be able to advise if work permits issued under GATS-Intra Company Transferee category would fall under the meaning of free-trade agreement?

Response

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

Those, who are not covered under their FTA, are subject to the new requirements.

GATS does not specify that spouses/ common-law spouses benefit from open work permits under the agreement, therefore, they would be subject to the new requirements as defined in the following link:

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]

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

Sincerely,

Immigration Representatives Mailbox

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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De :
Envoyé : 16 janvier 2025 14:53
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Objet : Changes to Spousal Open Work Permits for family members of temporary residents
Importance : Haute

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, IRCC made some changes to open work permit for family members of temporary resident (see: Changes to open work permits for family members of temporary residents - Canada.ca).

The announcement indicates that: "Spouses of workers covered by **free-trade agreements** and those transitioning to permanent residence will not be impacted by these changes." Would you be able to advise if work permits issued under GATS-Intra Company Transferee category would fall under the meaning of free-trade agreement? If you could provide clarity on this issue, we would greatly appreciate it.

Please note that this request is time sensitive as the changes take effect January 21, 2025.

[redacted] with this matter.

Kind regards,

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19(1)

of the Access to Information Act

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