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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:56:33 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Wed, 12 Mar 2025 13:53:03
To:
Cc: [redacted] Representatives [redacted] immigration [redacted]
Subject: FW: Changes to open work permits for family members of temporary residents - REP-2025-0144- Due 12-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

[redacted]

[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

What if the foreign worker and spouse are applying for work permit extensions at the same time? Does the spouse – who may already hold an expiring OWP - need to convert their status into a visitor record and wait for the employee's work permit extension application to be approved before they can once again qualify for an OWP?

For example, if the foreign worker's closed work permit (TEER 1 role) and spouse's existing permit both expire in August 2025, can the employee include their spouse's open permit request as part of their extension application? Or would they need to wait until their new closed work permit is approved before their spouse will become eligible?

Response 1

Foreign nationals apply as a family group. The Principal Applicant's application will first be assessed, if their work permit is approved, the spousal OWP will be processed.

The following information can be found in the PDI for **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):**

> **Applications received as a family group**
>
> If the spouse and the principal foreign national are applying together as a family group, the principal foreign national's application must be assessed first. The principal family member's application in the group may be considered as **documentary evidence** of the authority or provisional approval to work in Canada, the occupational level and the requirement of 16-month duration. (source)

For more information, please consult the following webpages:
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

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

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Sincerely,

Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 15 janvier 2025 09:06
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Objet : Changes to open work permits for family members of temporary residents
Importance : Haute

Hello ImmReps,

I am a lawyer in who is a member in good standing of the Law Society of Ontario. My membership ID is

Many of our clients have posed the same question about IRCC's new policy to limit issuance of Family Open Work Permits.

One of the new measures is that "...the foreign worker must also have at least 16 months remaining on their work permit at the time when their spouse applies for the OWP."

What if the foreign worker and spouse are applying for work permit extensions at the same time? Does the spouse – who may already hold an expiring OWP - need to convert their status into a visitor record and wait for the employee's work permit extension application to be approved before they can once again qualify for an OWP?

For example, if the foreign worker's closed work permit (TEER 1 role) and spouse's existing permit both expire in August 2025, can the employee include their spouse's open permit request as part of their extension application? Or would they need to wait until their new closed work permit is approved before their spouse will become eligible?

Kind regards,

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