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From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 25 Mar 2025 17:53:13
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Clarification on Work Experience Eligibility and PGWP Pending Status - REP-B-2025-0059 - Due 17-Apr-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,
[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox.**
Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the IRCC Web form.
Please see our response to your second question.
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Question 2:

PGWP application pending – visitor status and work eligibility
According to the IRCC website, individuals who leave Canada after applying for a PGWP can return as visitors if their study permit has expired and continue working while the application is being processed.
However, what happens if more than six months have passed since their re-entry and the PGWP has still not been approved?

Response Question 2:

[redacted] to [redacted] and Citizenship Canada's Immigration Representatives Mailbox.
If you received the WP-EXT for PGWP (IMM 0127 E) letter - You're authorized to work until a decision is made on your work permit application, even if the 180-day validity period of the letter expires.
If your application is refused, you must stop working immediately.
The above information can be found here: Work in Canada after you graduate: After you apply - Canada.ca

If the client has left and re-entered Canada:
If they were only authorized to stay for 6 months upon re-entry, they'd need to apply for the VR to maintain their TR status if they want to remain in Canada.
If the visitor record has the condition that they're not authorized to work, the document wouldn't negate their authorization under R186(w) if their PGWP app is still pending.

We hope you find this information helpful.

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[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 14 mars 2025 08:55
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-

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Representantsimmigration. [redacted]

Objet : Clarification on Work Experience Eligibility and PGWP Pending Status

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Good morning,

I'm reaching out to seek clarification on two questions that have been coming up frequently from our international student clients.

1 - Work experience during studies (co-op, on-campus, off-campus)
If an international student has gained six consecutive months of full-time (or equivalent part-time) work experience as, for example, a carpenter, while studying in Canada — through co-op, on-campus, or off-campus employment — can this experience count towards being selected in an Express Entry draw for targeted occupations?
I understand this type of work can be used towards eligibility under the Federal Skilled Worker (FSW) program, but I'm unsure whether it qualifies for an occupation-specific Express Entry draw when the work was completed during a study program in Canada, holding a study permit.

2 - PGWP application pending – visitor status and work eligibility
According to the IRCC website, individuals who leave Canada after applying for a PGWP can return as visitors if their study permit has expired and continue working while the application is being processed.
However, what happens if more than six months have passed since their re-entry and the PGWP has still not been approved?

In that case:

- Are they required to apply for a visitor record to remain in Canada?
- Do they need to leave the country?
- Can they continue working while waiting for the PGWP result, even after applying for a visitor record, if it is necessary?

We have clients who submitted their PGWP applications as early as May 2024 and are still waiting for a decision (some left Canada and returned), so we would greatly appreciate detailed guidance on how to advise them in this situation.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.