Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 2:52:06 PM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Wed, 26 Mar 2025 18:26:50
To:
Cc: [redacted] Representatives / Représentants Immigration [redacted]
Subject: TR: Religious Workers & Visitor Records & Flagpoling - REP-2025-0118- Due 10-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None
Attachments:

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 question:

Question received:

For the past few years IRCC has started taking the position that Visitor Records are rendered invalid when a person leaves the country, and that when they re-enter they cannot rely on their existing visitor record, that they either have to apply for a new Visitor Record at the POE or to extend their status online once in Canada as a visitor.

Religious workers often work in Canada based on 186 and Visitor Records confirming their eligibility to work. When these religious workers travel, do their Visitor Records also become invalid?

Do Religious Workers then need to apply for new Visitor Records each time they re-enter Canada in order to be permitted to work in Canada?

Are Religious Workers who hold Visitor Records allowed to apply for work permits at the port of entry when they re-enter Canada if the trip invalidated their Visitor Record or is this considered flagpoling?

We would note that even when asked, CBSA often refuses to stamp passports or issue Visitor Records.

Approved Response:

A visitor record is a status document that provides proof of temporary resident status while in Canada, is not a travel document and does not guarantee re-entry into Canada. As per R183(4)(a), once a foreign national leaves Canada, their temporary resident status ends. Clients must apply online for a visitor record to extend their stay as a:

- * visitor
- * worker authorized to work a without work permit or
- * student authorized to study without a study permit

Foreign nationals seeking entry to Canada to perform religious duties under R186(l) for more than 6 months must hold a valid

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visitor record. Officers may also issue visitor records for visits of less than 6 months to provide evidence of the authority to work without a permit under R186(l).

Clients do not need to apply for a work permit unless they want to do something that is not covered under R186. However, religious workers who entered Canada with authorization to work without a work permit pursuant to paragraph R186(l) may apply for a work permit after entry as per paragraph R199(b) under the paragraph R205(d) LMIA exemption. The employer in such a case is required to complete the offer of employment in the Employer Portal and pay the employer compliance fee, if required. Further information is available here: Religious work – International Mobility Program

Flagpoling occurs when foreign nationals who hold temporary resident status in Canada, leave Canada and, after a visit to the United States or St. Pierre and Miquelon, re-enter to access immigration services at a port of entry. As per CBSA's Website; Effective December 24, 2024, most Foreign nationals who hold temporary resident status in Canada will no longer be able to obtain a study or work permit by flagpoling.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 13 janvier 2025 15:09
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Objet : Religious Workers & Visitor Records & Flagpoling

[redacted]

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Thank you,

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19(1)

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