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From:
Sent: May 20, 2025 12:13:51 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: SOWP - C41, new changes
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

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Hello,

I would like to clarify the spousal open work permit policy changes, and how it applies to certain facts.

Your website indicates that, if the Principal Applicant has a work permit (high skilled worker, Teer 0, 1, 2 or 3) which was issued before January 21, 2025, then the family member may be eligible to renew work authorization to align with the PA's existing work authorization. In that case, the SOWP application must be submitted with 6 months left on the PA's work permit. See below screenshot from your website.

Does the spouse need to hold a valid SOWP at the time of applying for a renewal? If yes – if the spouse's SOWP was issued based on the PA's initial work permit, but the PA has since obtained a different work permit in a high skilled position (also issued before January 21, 2025), would the spouse still be eligible for renewal under the old C41 policy (requiring 6 months left on the PA's work permit)? Or would they need to meet the new C41 policy requiring 16 months?

Thank you in advance for your guidance.

Important:

These instructions apply to:

- applications for work permits received by IRCC on or before January 21, 2025, 04:59:59 A.M. [redacted] Universal Time (UTC), from family members of foreign nationals authorized to work in high-skilled occupations (TEER 0, 1, 2 or 3)
- **For in-Canada applicants only:** applications to renew work authorizations received by IRCC on or after January 21, 2025, 05:00:00 A.M. UTC from family members of high-skilled workers authorized to work in high-skilled occupations (TEER 0, 1, 2 or 3), where the requested duration aligns with the principal foreign national's existing work authorization. For example: the family members received a shorter work permit validity due to their [redacted] their open work permit after [redacted] received [redacted]
- applications received by IRCC from family members of high-skilled workers authorized to work in high-skilled occupations (TEER 0, 1, 2 or 3) **and** are transitioning to permanent residence. If the principal foreign national holds a work permit under certain IMP streams, the applicant need **not** demonstrate that an application for permanent residence has been submitted.

Thank you,

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