Important Changes to Work Permit Validity During LMIA Renewals

We have received an update from senior officials at IRCC regarding work permit validity for in-country Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) whose Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIAs) are in the process of being renewed.

Previously, TFWs who applied to extend their work permit had up to 90 days to provide a positive LMIA, after which they would lose their authorization to work in Canada and be required to leave the country.

Effective immediately, TFWs are authorized to continue working under their original work permit until an LMIA decision has been made. See here *(under subheading "If they want to extend their work permit").*

Senior officials have informed us that there will be no public announcement regarding this change. The update has been communicated through revised internal guidance and we have been informed that the change is potentially temporary.

The following FAQ provides additional information for TFWs who are in the process of extending their time in Canada. If you have questions about how this change may apply to your situation, we encourage you to reach out to the Employer Contact Centre.

This change aligns with our advocacy calling on the government to make the TFW program more predictable. We welcome this update and will continue to advocate for more efficient LMIA processing to reduce uncertainty for employers and foreign workers.

Low-wage LMIAs will no longer be processed in the following regions:

- Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Fredericton, New Brunswick
- Kingston, Ontario
- St. Catherines-Niagara, Ontario
- Regina, Saskatchewan
- Lethbridge, Alberta