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# What is the open work permit for vulnerable workers?

Every worker in Canada is entitled to a safe and healthy work environment. If you're being abused or at risk of being abused in relation to your job in Canada, you may be eligible for an open work permit for vulnerable workers.

An open work permit lets you work for almost any employer in Canada. It will help you leave an abusive situation to find a new job. There is no fee to apply. This work permit is **temporary** but should give you enough time to find a new employer and apply for a new work permit.

## Who is eligible?

Temporary foreign workers in Canada who

- hold a **valid work permit that is employer-specific or was issued under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program** (or who have applied to renew this type of permit)
- are being abused or at risk of being abused in relation to their job in Canada

Family members in Canada can also apply if the principal applicant has been issued an open work permit for vulnerable workers.

## What is abuse?

Any behaviour that scares, controls or isolates you could be abuse. Abuse can be physical, sexual, financial, mental or in the form of reprisals and can include

- physical harm, threats or insults
- unwanted sexual comments or touching
- controlling where you go or which people you see
- stealing from you or taking money you have earned
- threats or actions carried out in response to an employee reporting work conditions or cooperating with an employer inspection

## How can I apply?

You need to apply online for this work permit. You need a scanner or camera to create electronic copies of your documents. Read the instructions at the official website.

If you can't apply online because of a disability, or if there's a problem with our online application system, go to the IRCC office closest to you or contact the Client Support Centre at 1-888-242-2100 for more information.

## What documents do I need to provide?

- ☐ a letter describing the abuse

Other evidence may include

- a letter, statement or report from an abuse support organization or medical professional
- a sworn statement by the applicant
- a copy of a complaint filed with an enforcement agency
- other supporting material (for example, copies of emails, photos, witness testimonies)

- ☐ a copy of your passport

- ☐ a digital photo

- ☐ marriage and birth certificates if you're applying with family members

## What happens after I apply?

We aim to contact you within 5 business days after you apply. We may ask you to do an interview.

If you're approved for the open work permit for vulnerable workers, we may ask you to give us information to help us inspect your former employer. **You don't have to give us information. The choice is yours.**

