



Fact Sheet

New Procedures for Flagpole Clients in the Southern Ontario Region

On June 16, 2017, the Canada Border Services Agency's Southern Ontario Region started the Flagpoling pilot project. The Pilot involves new procedures for temporary residents of Canada who *flagpole* from Friday to Monday at the Rainbow, Queenston-Lewiston and Peace Bridges.

Due to high volumes and/or excessive immigration wait times experienced from Friday to Monday, temporary residents who flagpole at the specified border crossings to receive immediate processing of Confirmation of Permanent Resident, Work Permit and Study Permit applications will be allowed to proceed into Canada under their current immigration status and given one of the following options:

- Apply online, by mail or make an appointment at an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) office within Canada; or
- Return to a CBSA port of entry from Tuesday to Thursday when operational volumes permit the processing of these applications.

The CBSA is committed to ensuring that all clients receive a high and efficient standard of service. These new procedures will allow the CBSA to maintain our commitment to service excellence by effectively managing our immigration secondary wait times during high volume periods while, at the same time, ensuring that critical resources are focused on our security and trade priorities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I apply for a work permit/study permit extension?

A. You may apply for an extension of your work/study permit online or by completing a paper application. Visit the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website to create an account, pay fees, complete applications, find an office or processing centre and view application processing times: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/index.asp>. You may also call IRCC at 1-888-242-2100, to make an appointment.

Q. Can I apply to extend a work permit from inside Canada?

A. Yes, you can apply online through the IRCC website or send an *Application to Change Conditions or Extend Your Stay in Canada as a Worker* to the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta.

If applicable, you and your employer may have to sign a new employer-employee contract. If your job requires a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), your employer may need to obtain a new LMIA from Employment and Social Development Canada that says the employer is allowed to hire you, or pay the Employer Compliance Fee and submit a new offer of employment through the Employer Portal if your job does not require an LMIA. Contact IRCC for more information.

After you have applied for an extension, you will be allowed to stay in Canada until a decision is rendered to continue to work under the same conditions and to keep your current status until a decision is rendered by IRCC. **Note: You must remain in Canada until the decision is rendered.**

Q. I have applied for a new work permit, can I stay in Canada if my work permit expires?

A. Yes, you can stay in Canada and may be able to keep working under what is called “implied status”—i.e. the law implies you are a temporary resident. Implied status is valid until IRCC renders a decision on your new permit application. You must, however, respect the following requirements:

- If you have applied for another work permit, you must stay in Canada and meet the conditions of your original work permit.
- If you applied for a work permit extension before your work permit expired, you can keep working under the same conditions as your existing permit until IRCC renders a decision on your application unless you have applied to extend your stay under another category.
- If you applied for a different type of permit, you cannot do any of the activities allowed by the original work permit. For example, you may have come to Canada as a worker and then applied for a study permit. If so, you must stop working once your work permit expires. After that, you cannot work or study until you receive a new permit.

Q. Can I keep working if my permit expires? How do I prove this to my employer?

A. Yes. If you applied for a work permit extension before your work permit expired, you can keep working until a decision is rendered by IRCC on your application. You must, however, stay in Canada and meet the conditions of your original work permit. For instance, if you have an employer-specific work permit, you must still work for the employer named on that permit.

IRCC does not provide confirmation that you have implied status in Canada. However, you should keep proof that you submitted the application before your work permit expired. This includes copies of the application, the fee receipt, and evidence confirming the date it was sent and delivered.

Q. How do I apply for a post-graduation work permit?

A. Visit the IRCC website and select one of the following options:

- Option 1: Apply online
- Option 2: Download, complete and mail your application to the address in the Instruction Guide, including all required documents. Ensure the payment of any required fees is included.