



# What Happens if Your Canadian Work Permit Expires? Options and Solutions



Facing the expiration of your Canadian work permit can be a stressful experience. Still, with the right strategy, you may explore ways to extend your stay in Canada or transition to a new immigration pathway. This guide provides actionable steps and options available to individuals whose work permits are nearing their end date, along with insights on how a work permit lawyer in Canada can assist you.

## 1. Understand Your Current Status and Deadlines

Before taking action, it is essential to understand your current immigration status and the deadlines associated with your work permit.

- **Validity Check:** Confirm the expiration date on your work permit.
- **Grace Period:** Be aware that staying in Canada after your permit expires without taking appropriate action could result in losing your status.
- **90-day Restoration Period:** If your permit has already expired, you may still restore your status by applying for restoration within 90 days of expiry.

**Tip:** Consulting an experienced [Canada work permit immigration lawyer](https://lawbytiasherene.com/) can help you determine your options and act quickly.

## 2. Extend Your Work Permit

If your work permit is about to expire, applying for an extension is a viable option to

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continue your employment in Canada without interruption. Here's a more detailed look at the eligibility criteria and steps to extend your permit.

#### **Eligibility for Extension:**

- **Employer-Specific Work Permits:** These permits are tied to a specific employer. To extend this type of permit, your employer may need to provide a new Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or a renewed job offer, depending on the circumstances.
- **Open Work Permits:** Open work permits allow you to work for any employer in Canada, without a specific job offer. To extend an open work permit, you'll need to meet general eligibility requirements and may need to provide updated documents, such as proof of continued employment or status.

#### **Steps to Extend Your Permit:**

- Submit the extension application before your permit expires.
- You may be able to continue working under "implied status" until a decision is made.
- If required, provide updated documentation, including a renewed LMIA or job offer.

### **3. Transition to Permanent Residency**

If you want to remain in Canada long-term, transitioning to permanent residency may be an option.

#### **Pathways to Consider:**

- **Express Entry:** One of the most popular pathways is through the **Canadian Experience Class (CEC)** under the Express Entry system. If you have gained skilled work experience in Canada, this program may allow you to apply for permanent residency. The CEC is designed for individuals who have worked in Canada for at least one year in a skilled occupation, offering a faster route to becoming a permanent resident.
- **Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs):** Another option is to explore **Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs)**. Many Canadian provinces and territories have their own immigration streams targeting foreign workers with specific skills or employment in high-demand sectors. These programs offer pathways to permanent residency, and the criteria vary by province, often considering factors like work experience, job offers, and labor market needs in the region.

Applying for permanent residency can be complex, and a work permit lawyer in Canada can guide you through the process, ensuring your application is robust and complete.

### **4. Consider Switching to a Different Permit**

If extending your current permit is not possible, you may be eligible to apply for a new type of permit.

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#### Options for New Permits:

- **Spousal Open Work Permit:** You may qualify if your spouse is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident or holds a valid work or study permit.
- **Study Permit:** Transitioning to a study permit allows you to pursue education in Canada while maintaining legal status.
- **Visitor Visa:** If you need more time to explore your options, you can apply to change your status to a visitor.

**Pro Tip:** Immigration lawyers can assess your eligibility for alternative permits and ensure your transition is seamless.

#### 5. Restoration of Status: What to Do If Your Permit Has Expired

If your work permit has expired and you are within the 90-day restoration period, you may apply to restore your status.

##### Steps for Restoration:

- **Apply for Restoration of Status:** If you're still in Canada and your work permit has expired, you can apply for a restoration of status. This allows you to regain legal status without leaving the country. You must apply within 90 days of the permit's expiration. If you're outside of the 90-day window, you may need to leave Canada and apply for a new permit from abroad.
- **Stop Working Immediately:** Once your permit expires, you are no longer authorized to work in Canada. Avoid working until your status is restored.
- **Consult with an Immigration Lawyer:** If you're uncertain about the best course of action or facing complications, consulting with an immigration lawyer can help you navigate the process and ensure you comply with all legal requirements.

#### 6. Seek Professional Assistance for Complex Cases

Navigating the intricacies of Canadian immigration law can be overwhelming, especially when dealing with work permit expiration. Consulting with a work permit lawyer can help you:

- Evaluate your eligibility for extensions or new permits.
- Prepare a complete and error-free application.
- Advocate on your behalf in complex situations, such as restoration or transitioning to permanent residency.

#### How The Law Office of Tià Sherene McCalla Can Help

At The Law Office of Tià Sherene McCalla, we understand how critical it is to maintain legal status in Canada. Our team offers compassionate, professional support tailored to your unique situation. Whether you need assistance extending your work permit, applying for permanent residency, or restoring your status, we are here to guide you every step of the way.

With extensive experience as immigration lawyers in Canada that assists with work permits, we ensure your applications are handled with precision and care.

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## **Act Now to Secure Your Future in Canada**

If your work permit is expiring, acting promptly is vital to maintaining your status and exploring long-term options in Canada. Taking the right steps, from permit extensions to permanent residency applications, can significantly impact your chances of success.

**[Contact The Law Office of Tià Sherene McCalla](#)** today to schedule a consultation and receive personalized legal assistance for your immigration needs.

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