



Open Work Permits for Caregivers in the LCP¹

This fact sheet explains the law in general. It is not intended as legal advice for your particular problem. Because each person's situation is different, you may need to seek legal advice. A lawyer at MWC reviewed this information in May 2018.

What is an Open Work Permit?

Foreign nationals with an open work permit (OWP) are not restricted to working for a single employer. They may accept any job with any employer. In contrast, a live-in caregiver work permit only allows holders to do live-in caregiving work for the employer named on the permit.

How do I receive an Open Work Permit?

You may apply for an open work permit when you apply for permanent residency. You may NOT apply for an open work permit before submitting your Permanent Resident (PR) application.

In order to be eligible to apply for PR, you must meet the required work experience within four years from when you arrived in Canada through the LCP. The required work experience is either having 24 months of authorized full-time live-in employment or 3,900 hours of authorized full-time employment within a minimum of 22 months.

Do I need Stage One approval of my PR application to receive an Open Work Permit?

Since 11 December, 2011, you do not need Stage One approval of your PR application to receive an OWP. Once IRCC confirms that there is no missing information on the open work permit application and that you have met the LCP's employment requirements, it will issue the open work permit.

It is important to note that even if IRCC has issued an open work permit, this does not mean that you have received Stage One approval on your PR application.

¹ The LCP refers to the Live-in Caregiver Program