

How to apply

The work permit is applied for online and has no application fees.

Supporting evidence of abuse should be uploaded to the application when submitted. This evidence should be submitted under “client information” in the “optional documents” section of the online application webform.

The application can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/vulnerable-workers.html>

The Halifax Workers' Action Centre is committed to improving the lives and working conditions of low-waged and marginalized workers.

Need Help?

Phone:

(902) 221-0755

Website:

<http://HalifaxWorkersAction.ca>

The Halifax Workers' Action Centre is located on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.



Open Work Permit for Vulnerable Workers

Are you employed on an employer-specific work permit?

Are you experiencing abuse in your workplace?

If so, you may be eligible for an **open work permit for vulnerable workers.**

Who is eligible?

1. Workers who hold (or have held and have applied to renew) an employer-specific work permit.
2. Workers who are able to show that they are experiencing abuse or are at risk of abuse in the context of their employment.

Family

If a worker has family members in Canada when they apply, and meet the other requirements of the application, family members may also be able to apply for an “open” work permit. Their applications must be submitted along with the worker’s application.

Abuse may include:

Physical abuse: physical contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm;

Sexual abuse: any situation in which force or a threat is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity as well as coercing a person to engage in sex against their will;

Psychological abuse: a pattern of coercive or controlling behaviour, iterated threats or both; and/or

Financial abuse: a form of abuse where one person has control over the victim’s access to their own economic resources.

Evidence

Any evidence that a worker can present to show abuse or potential for abuse can be used to support the work permit, such as:

- a letter, statement or report from an abuse support organization, medical doctor, healthcare professional, etc.
- a sworn statement, also known as an affidavit, from the worker
- a copy of an official report submitted to an enforcement agency, such as a police or Canada Border Services Agency report
- a copy of an official complaint submitted to a provincial enforcement agency, such as an Employment Standards Branch
- a victim impact statement
- email messages
- photos showing injuries or working conditions
- witness testimony