



ADVISORY GUIDE 2026



Securing Your Stay: The Ultimate Guide to Canadian Work Permit Extensions.

From 'Ticking Clock' to 'Maintained Status'—A Strategic Handbook for Foreign Workers.

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The Ticking Clock: Why Precision Matters

For foreign workers, a work permit expiry date is a threat to employment, income, and the Permanent Residence pathway. Extending is not just checking a “renew” box; rules differ drastically by permit type.



The Error

Applying even one day late.



The Consequence

Immediate loss of status and work stoppage.



The Goal

Seamless status maintenance without interruption to your ‘Canadian Dream’.



Today



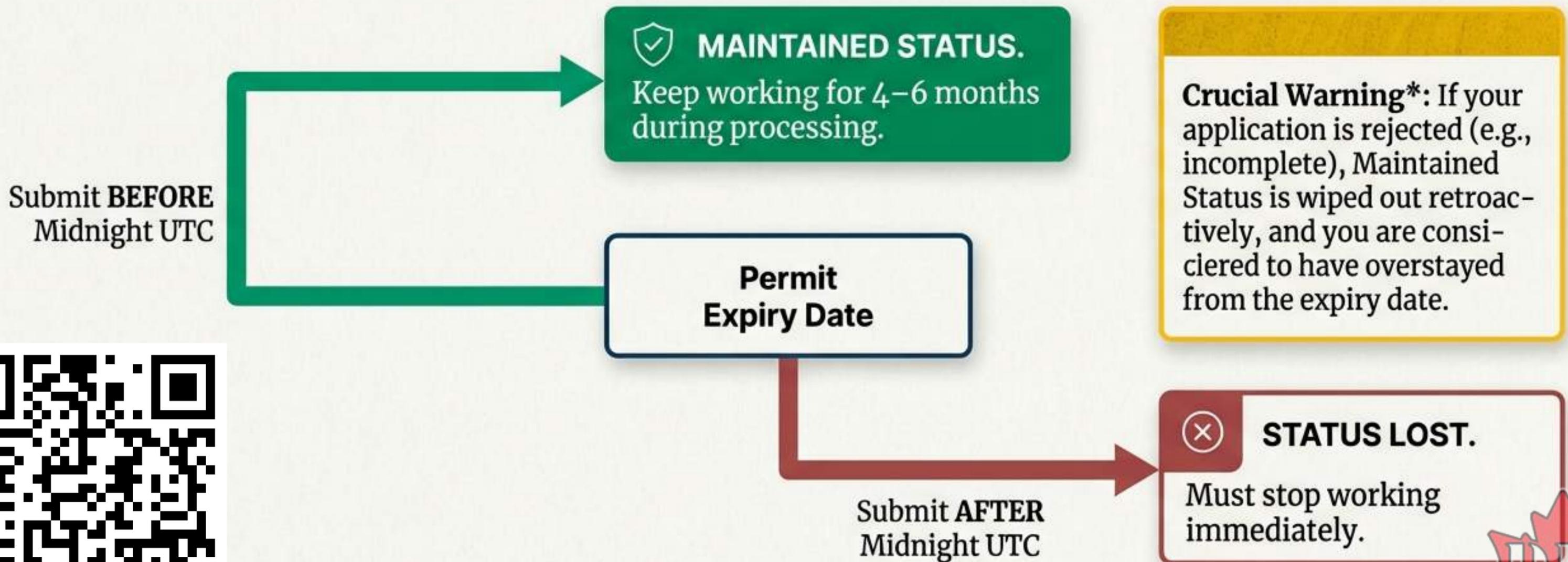
Expiry Date

Loss of Status & Work Stoppage



Your Safety Net: Understanding Maintained Status

Formerly known as "Implied Status," this allows you to legally continue working under the *exact same conditions* as your original permit while a decision is made.



Lane A: Closed Work Permit Extensions LMIA & Exempt Categories

You cannot extend this permit alone. Your employer must act first.

Standard Closed Permit



- ✓ Employer secures new positive LMIA.
- ✓ Valid for extension period.



Key Requirement: Must have New LMIA Number.

Exempt Permit (CUSMA/ICT)



- ✓ Employer submits offer in Portal.
- ✓ Employer pays \$230 Compliance Fee.



Key Requirement: Must have A-Number (Offer of Employment #).

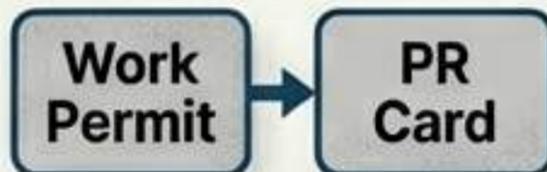
Lane B: Open Work Permit Extensions



Spousal Open Work Permits

Requirement: Principal spouse must hold valid skilled worker/student status.

The Proof: Partner employed in TEER 0, 1, 2, or 3 (high skilled) job.



Bridging Open Work Permit (BOWP)

Requirement: Applied for Permanent Residence (Express Entry/PNP).

The Proof: Must possess Acknowledgement of Receipt (AOR) letter.



Lane C: The 'One-Time' Permits (Ineligible)

Managing Expectations for PGWP and IEC Holders



PGWP
(Post-Graduation Work Permit)

Generally NOT Extendable

The Reality: If you haven't found a skilled job or PR pathway, applying for an extension usually leads to refusal.



IEC
(Working Holiday)

Generally NOT Extendable

The Reality: Unless applying as a dual citizen under a second passport.



The Exception: You may only extend these if the original permit was issued for a shorter duration than allowed due to an early **passport expiry**.



The Hard Limit: Your Passport Expiry

IRCC will never issue a permit past the expiry date of your passport.



Renew your passport NOW if it is nearing expiry.



Timing Your Application: The 30-Day Rule



The Recommendation:

IRCC advises applying at least **30 days** before expiry.

The Reality:

You can legally apply up until the very last day, but it is high-risk.

Why Wait?:

Technical glitches on expiry day can cause you to miss the Midnight UTC deadline.

The Application Process: Preparation

Steps 1 – 3

1



Employer Prep (Closed Only)

Wait for the **New LMIA Number** or **A-Number**. Do not start without these.

2



Passport Check

Confirm validity covers the full extension period.

3



GCKey Setup

Log in to IRCC Secure Account.

Reference Code: "I do not have a Personal Reference Code".

Goal Selection: "Extend my stay or remain in Canada as a worker."



The Application Process: Execution

Steps 4 – 5



- 1 Step 4: Document Upload:** Upload Employment Letter, Reference Code (A-Number/LMIA), and scans of passport/photo.
- 5 Step 5: Submission:** Submit and pay fees **before** expiry.

IRCC: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



Submission Confirmation

Your application has been successfully submitted.

Print/Save

The Golden Screenshot.
This is your primary proof of Maintained Status to show employers while waiting.

Logistics: Costs & Processing Timelines (2026 Estimates)

Work Permit Fee	\$155 CAD	Standard
Open Permit Holder Fee	+\$100 CAD	Added for BOWP/Spousal (Total \$255)
Employer Compliance Fee	\$230 CAD	Paid by employer (Exempt permits)
Restoration Fee	\$200 CAD	Penalty for applying post-expiry

Processing Time

80 – 120 Days

Maintained Status Active (You can work during this entire wait).



Critical Risks & Refusals



The "Wait and See" Mistake

Miss the deadline → 90 days to apply for Restoration.

Consequence: Stop working immediately. Cannot resume until new permit is **physically approved.**



The Travel Trap

Leaving Canada while on Maintained Status.

Consequence: You cannot resume working upon return until the final decision is made.

Advice: Do not travel internationally.



PGWP Extension

Extending without a skilled job.

Consequence: Usually results in refusal unless a specific 2026 public policy exists.



Frequently Asked Questions



Q Can I change employers during an extension?

A No. Closed permit extensions are tied to that employer. Changing jobs requires a *new* work permit application.

Q How long is the extension valid?

A It depends. LMIA permits match the LMIA duration (1-2 years). Spousal permits match the principal spouse's permit expiry.

Q Can I keep working while processing?

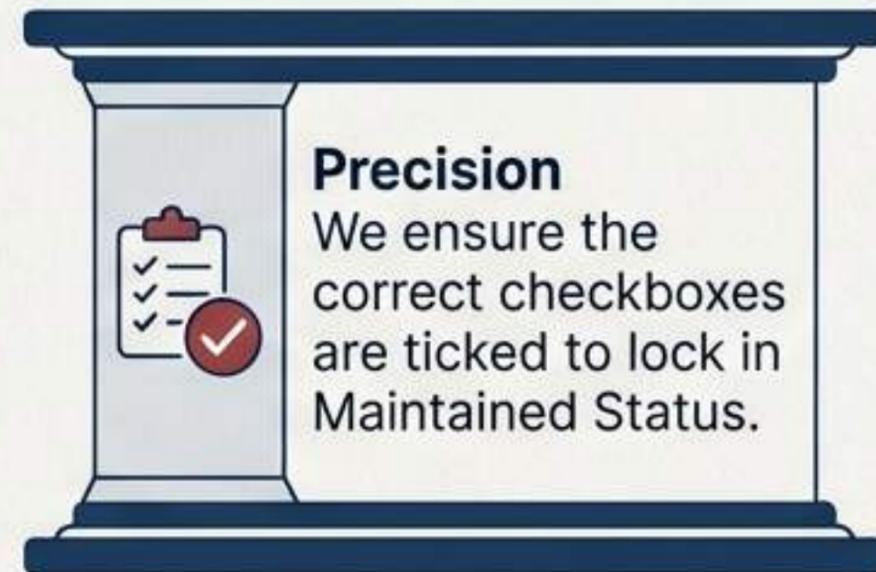
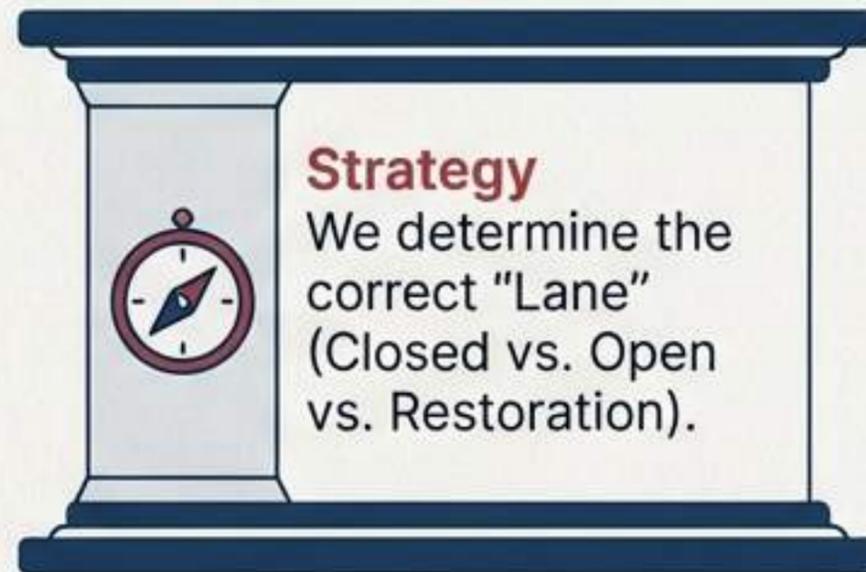
A Yes, *only* if you applied before the expiry date (Maintained Status).



Why Professional Help Matters

A Canadian Work Permit Extension is not just paperwork; it is the continuity of your life and income in Canada.

The DIS Advantage



Value: A missed deadline or wrong checkbox can **stop your paycheques** and **jeopardize PR eligibility**.

Don't Let a Calendar Error Cost You Your Career.

Dara Immigration Services



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This presentation provides general information regarding Canadian Work Permit Extensions and does not constitute legal advice. Policies change frequently.



[Www.Daraimmigration.Com](http://www.Daraimmigration.Com)

