**A message from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**

This information is to inform of how the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is evolving as it pertains to the **International Experience Canada (IEC) Program.**  This message provides details on: (1) a new temporary change for IEC participants requiring a current and active offer of employment; and (2) other information related to COVID-19 and the IEC Program including a new Question and Answer page for IEC applicants.

 ***(1) Employment Provision for IEC Participants* - Effective May 8th, 2020 and lasting until further notice,** **only foreign nationals currently outside Canada who: (i) hold a valid IEC work permit or Letter of Introduction; and (ii) have a current and active offer of employment will be permitted to enter Canada.  Please note that this new provision applies to all three streams of IEC work permits: international co-op, young professionals, and working holiday.**Foreign nationals who do not have a job offer, should not come to Canada at this time.  Further, those who do have a job offer and are currently outside Canada must confirm that their employer is not subject to mandatory closure of non-essential businesses and will be able to start their employment after the 14-day isolation period before making any travel arrangements.
The IEC Program includes up to three different streams of work permits for youth, depending on the arrangement: international co-op, young professionals, and working holiday.  This temporary employment provision affects each stream as follows:
·        **International Co-op and Young Professionals** - The international co-op and young professionals work permit streams are employer-specific, meaning that youth must have a job offer before they apply.  **Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended that international co-op and young professionals communicate with their employer, prior to their arrival in Canada, to ensure that their job offer is still valid and to understand if there have been any other changes to the terms of their employment.**
·        **Working Holiday** - Normally, the working holiday stream provides youth with an open work permit, meaning applicants do not need an offer of employment in advance.  **However,** **with this new employment provision, working holiday participants must have a current and active job offer prior to their arrival at a Canadian port of entry. As previously communicated, travel to Canada during the COVID-19 Pandemic must be for an essential purpose, which does not include leisure and holiday.**  ***(2) Other Information –***  additional links to help you access other information on the IEC Program both now and as the situation continues to evolve:  Here you will find the link to the [International Experience Canada website](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/iec.html) and a web page we developed on [Questions and Answers related to COVID-19](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/iec.html).  Please check these sites periodically, as they will be updated with new information as required.

The current travel restrictions and this temporary employment provision have been enacted to help safeguard Canadians and all people in Canada, including foreign nationals, to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

 **IEC participants and case-specific questions should be directed to the IRCC using** [**this IRCC web form**](https://secure.cic.gc.ca/enquiries-renseignements/canada-case-cas-eng.aspx) **.**

***Compiled by Czech Consulate General in Toronto from the message of IRCC (May 8, 2020)***

***In Toronto, May 18, 2020***