



Migrant Students United is an organization of current and former international students in nine provinces, and the only national representative body of migrant students in Canada. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we surveyed 2,300 migrant students, held eleven online information sessions with over 2,000 students registered, and have directly connected with hundreds across Canada. **From August 2020 to November 2020, we collected work permit expiry data from 614 post graduate work permit (PGWP) holders of whom:**

- 11.07% reported their PGWPs *have already expired*.
- 44.95% reported their PGWPs will *expire in less than 6 months*.
- 43.97% reported their PGWPs will *expire in 6-12 months*.

All of these workers with expired and expiring permits have lost their jobs during COVID-19 and/or cannot find NOC 0, A, B work, and will not be able to apply for permanent residency. The month by month breakdown is as follows:

Post Graduate Work Permit Holders that contacted Migrant Students United, August - November 2020



Many migrant student workers who reported expiring permits in less than six months in August are now already without valid permits. Some with expired work permits are waiting for a change to PGWP rules by December 31st. Others have applied for a visitors record, and have either been granted a visitor record or are awaiting a decision on their applications.

We are a small organization, with a single hotline, and with only one full-time staff person focussed on just this work. Extrapolating from our experience, it is clear that thousands across the country will no longer have valid work permits as of December 31st, and will not be able to restore them either. Those who remain in Canada will be subject to a removal order and eventually face deportations.

Migrant Student Workers have simple, pragmatic, possible demands:

Because of the important public policy change, migrants are able [restore their status until December 31st of this year](#). **We urge you to make PGWPs renewable to allow post-graduates to avail of this opportunity before December 31st and value all work to count toward permanent residency.**

In addition, please take swift action to:

1. Ensure real access to PR: Lower points requirements for PR (CRS); Count work that is part-time, in-school, and in any occupation towards PR; and ensure full and permanent immigration status for all migrants;
2. Fix rules around work: Remove time-limits (such as the 20 hour restriction for off-campus work) and industry restrictions on work;
3. Unite families: Allow families to travel; ensure work permits for family members.
4. Lower tuition and ensure full services: Work with provincial partners to ensure migrant students pay domestic tuition; and have full access to all services including healthcare, housing, jobs, scholarships, pandemic emergency benefits, and in-school support; and ensure immediate access to Social Insurance Numbers.

For further inquiries, we can be reached at msu@migrantworkersalliance.org and 647-858-2854.