

# Temporary Foreign Workers

Temporary foreign workers are covered by the *Employment Standards Act* and *Regulation*. These provisions include overtime pay, statutory holidays and holiday pay, annual vacations and vacation pay, and minimum wage.

## No charge for hiring

No one can charge a fee to a person to:

- help that person find a job; or
- provide information about prospective jobs.

A temporary foreign worker cannot be required to pay for immigration assistance as a condition of being placed in a job.

A temporary foreign worker cannot be required to post a bond or pay a deposit to ensure they will finish a work term or employment contract, or to pay a penalty if they do not.

A temporary foreign worker cannot be required to pay back any costs the employer paid to an employment agency or anyone else to recruit the worker.

## Deductions from wages

An employer may only deduct wages as required by law (e.g. income tax, Canada Pension Plan contributions, Employment Insurance premiums, union dues).

An employer cannot require an employee to pay any portion of a business cost, including:

- costs of bringing a temporary foreign worker to Canada; or
- costs incurred due to theft, damage, breakage, poor quality of work, failure to pay by a customer, etc.

An employer may deduct advances and overpayments from wages if the employee gives written authorization.

## Payment of wages

Wages must be paid in Canadian currency by cheque, draft, money order or direct deposit to an employee's bank account. An employer cannot provide goods or services in lieu of wages.

Employers must pay the wage rate specified on the Labour Market Opinion. If a lesser rate is paid, the difference is recoverable as wages.

## If employment ends

An employer may terminate an employee upon giving the required notice or pay in lieu of notice.

An employer or an employment agency cannot force a temporary foreign worker to return to his or her country of origin if the employer terminates an employment contract before the work permit expires or if the temporary foreign worker finds a job with another employer. Only the Government of Canada has the legal authority to remove a person from Canada.

An employer may not refuse to continue to employ a person who files an Employment Standards complaint, or otherwise discriminate against a person with respect to their employment.

## Complaints

Temporary foreign workers with language difficulties are not required to use the Self-Help Kit before filing an Employment Standards complaint.

