

If the text or images below do not display correctly, please [view online](#)



## BCTA Campaign to Support Foreign Workers & Employers

Posted on Fri, 2019-06-14 14:12  
in

### Regulations

BCTA will be delivering an education campaign, made possible by funding from Employment and Social Development Canada, to improve awareness among motor carriers and commercial drivers of foreign worker rights and resources available to support them. Members are encouraged to assist.

Canadian employers may hire and bring Temporary Foreign Workers to Canada to fill temporary labour shortages when they can find no qualified Canadians to do the job. With a 391 percent increase in vacancies for professional truck drivers in BC from 2015 to 2018, many motor carriers have turned to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to help them fill empty driver seats.

Since most TFWs are new to Canada, they may not be fully aware of their rights, what their employers' obligations are, or who they can turn to if they are being mistreated. As a result, ESDC started the Migrant Worker Support Network as a pilot project in BC by partnering with a number of agencies and organizations, including BCTA. This federal initiative intends to enhance capacity in BC to educate and support foreign workers, employers and resource agencies serving both groups throughout the province and ultimately to improve worker experiences in Canada.

BCTA received our funding from the Multi-Lingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities ([MOSAIC](#)) through the Government of Canada's Migrant Worker Support Network. BCTA's education campaign is designed to reach drivers directly through our distribution of a Foreign Worker Rights pamphlet to improve commercial drivers' awareness of their rights and where to go for help. Copies of the pamphlet will be available at BCTA's office. We also encourage motor carriers to distribute the pamphlet to their drivers, who may be in a position to share the information with TFW drivers they may meet in the course of their work.

BCTA's education campaign will also involve reaching out to employers through a series of regional workshops at several locations across the province, including Kamloops, Prince George, Kelowna and the Lower Mainland. The workshops will provide an overview of TFWP requirements, including rights of foreign workers and responsibilities of employers who participate in the program. The campaign takes place over the next year, until spring 2020. Stay tuned to our *Bulletin*, Calendar e-mail updates and [Events](#) page for details on upcoming workshops.

Members may request copies of the Foreign Worker Rights pamphlet for distribution by contacting BCTA Policy Manager Lindsay Samson at 604-888-5319, ext. 219, or [lindsays@bctrucking.com](mailto:lindsays@bctrucking.com).

"The protection and safety of drivers is our top priority, and BCTA is pleased to be a part of this important initiative," says BCTA President & CEO Dave Earle.

### Resources for Foreign Workers

- BCTA Foreign Worker Rights [pamphlet](#)

- ESDC document: [Temporary foreign workers: Your rights are protected](#)

### **Background**

The [Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#) allows Canadian employers to hire foreign nationals to fill temporary labour or skill shortages when qualified Canadian citizens or permanent residents are not available.

In order to hire TFWs, an employer must apply to ESDC for a labour market impact assessment, which will confirm whether there is a need for a foreign worker and that no Canadian worker can do the job. The application must provide proof of business legitimacy, proof of attempts to recruit Canadians for the job, and the employment contract. ESDC will assess the application to validate the legitimacy of the business and the job offer, as well as the impact of hiring a TFW on the Canadian labour market.

Once an employer receives an LMIA confirmation letter from ESDC, they must provide a copy to the TFW, and advise the worker to apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for a work permit. The employer is responsible for arranging the TFW's compensation benefits and medical coverage, verifying that the employee has a SIN, and ensuring the conditions and time limits on the work permit are respected. The employer must also pay for round-trip transportation between Canada and the TFW's country of residence.

Since the TFWP is designed to fill temporary shortages, TFWs must return to their country of residence after their work permit expires, or they can apply for permanent residence if they wish to remain in Canada. In BC this is possible through the [Provincial Nominee Program](#), which accepts applicants working in long-haul trucking in its Skills Immigration - Entry Level and Semi-Skilled category.

# Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada's  
Migrant Worker Support Network