

# 4-in 4-out: Temporary Foreign Workers face looming deadline

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STARTING APRIL 1, some temporary foreign workers may be forced to leave Canada.

The '4-in, 4-out' rule is a rule where a temporary foreign worker (TFW) that has reached a four-year cumulative duration limit will not be granted another work permit in Canada for the next four years. After four years again, the worker may be allowed back into Canada again.

The change was made to the TFW program in 2011, meaning that the first temporary foreign workers that are affected by the change will now reach the four-year limit starting next week on April 1, a deadline set by the federal government.

The deadline has caused an estimated thousands of TFWs to panic as they scramble to find ways to stay in Canada, where many have formed relationships and built lives during their temporary stay in the country.

The April 1 deadline treats TFWs as "disposable and expendable" said Justice for Migrant Workers spokesman Chris Ramsaroop in a statement this week. Ramsaroop

added that the policy is "racist". Migrant worker advocates fear that for those TFWs unable to extend their stays, they will instead go "underground" as undocumented illegal immigrants, working under the table to make ends meet and opening themselves up to employment abuse.

Employers too will feel pressure from this deadline, as some stand to lose significant numbers of hardworking, and in some cases cheaper, employees.

One issue is that many TFWs saw the TFW program as a path to permanent residency in the country, but federal reforms last June mean employers can only use TFWs for up to 10% of their work force, meaning that employers aren't extending permits for as many workers as in the past.

Federal spokesman Remi Lariviere said that the four-year maximum was intended to give migrants an opportunity to seek permanent residence, rather than use work permits to remain in Canada indefinitely, and adding that border services

are prepared to take "appropriate action" to remove anyone that is in defiance of the order to leave after their time is up.

Another issue is the processing time for applications, which is estimated to take in the 12-25 month range. Some TFWs may still have their application in processing by the time they reach their four year deadline. The looming deadline is expected to create a surge of applications, which can cause even further delays.

are encouraged to seek the advice of an immigration consultant regarding the specifics of their situation.

Special help for a lucky few TFWs may come from the Provincial governments themselves.

"In Alberta, the government asked for an extension for work permits for those that are expiring, a temporary extension until such time as they can be brought in under the provincial nominee program," said MP Pierre Poilievre, Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister of State.

"And so there are a 1000 Alberta temporary foreign workers who are being allowed to stay because the province has identified the strong likelihood that they will become permanent residents, so instead of uprooting from their jobs, sending them back to their country then telling them in 90 days that they've been approved for permanent residency under the provincial nominee program, we're extending their temporary foreign work permit until such time as they make that fi-

nal decision," he said.

"So that's something we're open to doing for other provinces, I know that the jobs minister for British Columbia is working very hard to ensure that we don't make the mistake of sending people back to the country only to tell them they can return here a short time later after they've lost their jobs and left their homes and uprooted themselves from Canada. I think the Alberta accommodations are a good approach, and we're open to extending it to other provinces with the same circumstances," he added.

And despite the potential for thousands of lives to be affected by the deadline, some people are for TFWs being sent home after their time is up.

"As much as I know many of these people are good workers, they came here and should have known the terms of what they are allowed," said one user in a response to an online article that was critical of the rule. "Yes you have helped in the job scene, but you have also been helped and most of the dollars you earned did not go back into the economy here as you sent a good part of it home."

"Come back if and when it is legal for you to do so," they added. ■

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There are several ways a TFW can extend or make their stay in Canada permanent, even as they approach their own deadline. Among them are the Express Entry immigration selection system, Provincial Nominee Programs, through family or spousal relationships, or through study permits. Certain jobs are also exempt from the four year limit, such as several in the management and professional categories. TFWs

## Jet crashes...

19 and the plane's quick descent prompted the control centre to declare a distress situation.

"We cannot say at the moment why our colleague went into the descent, and so quickly, and without previously consulting air traffic control," said Germanwings' director of flight operations, Stefan-Kenan Scheib.

The plane crashed at an altitude of about 2,000 metres (6,550 feet) near the towns of Prads-Haute-Bleone and Melolans-Revels and the popular ski resort of Pra Loup. The site is 700 kilometres (430 miles) south-southeast of Paris.

"It was a deafening noise. I thought it was an avalanche, although it sounded slightly different. It was short noise and lasted just a few seconds," Sandrine Boisse, the president of the Pra Loup tourism office,

told the AP.

Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet told BFM television he expected "an extremely long and extremely difficult" search-and-rescue operation because of the area's remoteness. The weather in the area deteriorated Tuesday afternoon, with a chilly rain falling.

Winkelmann said the pilot, whom he did not name, had more than 10 years' experience working for Germanwings and its parent airline Lufthansa.

The aircraft was delivered to Lufthansa in 1991, had approximately 58,300 flight hours in some 46,700 flights, Airbus said. The plane underwent a routine check in Duesseldorf on Monday, and its last regular full check took place in the summer of 2013.

The plane had a minor technical problem Monday with a

nose gear landing door, Lufthansa spokesman Christoph Meier said, but added that it was really only a noise problem that did not appear to have any link to the crash.

He also said a few Germanwings crews asked not to fly after the crash "for personal reasons."

The safest part of a flight is normally when the plane is at cruising elevation. Just 10 per cent of fatal accidents occur at that point, according to a safety analysis by Boeing. In contrast, takeoff and the initial climb accounts for 14 per cent of crashes and final approach and landing accounts for 47 per cent.

In Paris, French President

Francois Hollande called the crash "a tragedy on our soil."

The last time a passenger jet crashed in France was the 2000 Concorde accident, which left

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"The crash ... is a shock that plunges us in Germany, the French and the Spanish into deep sorrow," said Merkel, who planned to travel to the region Wednesday.

The A320 plane is a workhorse of modern aviation. The single-aisle, twin-engine jet is used to connect cities between one and five hours apart. It is certified to fly up to 39,000 feet but it can begin to experience problems as low as 37,000 feet.

The A320 family also has a good safety record, with just 0.14 fatal accidents per million takeoffs, according to a Boeing safety analysis. ■