

# LET'S TALK ABOUT TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS IN SQUAMISH



Temporary foreign workers (TFWs, also called migrant workers) are people who are foreign nationals and are in Canada under a “temporary” work permit.

Work permits can be either open, which allow them to work for any employer in Canada; or closed, which tie them to one specific employer, position, and location.



**Every migrant worker is unique.**

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What TFWs can bring to Canada

- Important work and life experiences;
- Cultural background;
- Languages and other skills;
- Culinary traditions; and
- Different perspectives.

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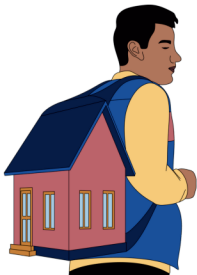
What many TFWs have sacrificed to come here

- Family and friends;
- Known cultural environment & lifestyle;
- Familiar way of doing things;
- Occupation/profession; and
- Their support network.

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What many TFWs are seeking here in Canada

- Fair employment practices; equity and inclusion;
- A respectful, safe and supportive environment;
- Education and personal development opportunities; and
- A better future for their families.



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Some of the challenges TFWs face

- Family separation;
- Language barriers;
- Low wages;
- High cost of immigration services and fees;
- Discrimination in the workplace and housing;
- Exploitation and human trafficking;
- Lack of information about their rights;
- Difficulties accessing healthcare;
- Emotional distress and mental health issues;
- Long and exhausting processes to validate their credentials; and
- Difficulty qualifying for permanent residency.

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What you can do to support TFWs in your community

- Think of them as human beings, not workforce or competition;
- Inquire about their needs and concerns;
- Connect them with supportive programs in your community;
- Support their language learning journeys;
- Facilitate their awareness of their rights and entitlements in Canada.

**Additionally, if you're an employer:**

- Be sure to know your responsibilities;
- Offer them fair wages and benefits;
- Ensure they have access to decent housing and healthcare; and
- Connect them to support organizations in your area.



**We all have the power to make  
Squamish a stronger  
community through  
empathetic and informed  
actions.**

**Want to learn more or get involved?**

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