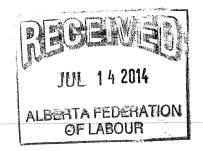


Employment and Social Development Canada

Access to Information and Privacy 140 Promenade du Portage Phase IV, Level 12, Mail stop 1203 Gatineau, Québec K1A 0J9

Emploi et Développement social Canada

Accès à l'information et Protection des renseignements personnels 140, promenade du Portage Phase IV, niveau 12, arrêt postal 1203 Gatineau (Québec) K1A 0J9



JUL 0 7 2014

Our file - Notre référence A-2014-00115 / CL

Ms. Shannon Phillips Alberta Federation of Labour #300, 10408-124 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1R5

Dear Ms. Phillips:

This is in response to your request submitted under the *Access to Information Act*, received at Employment and Social Development Canada on May 21, 2014, and which reads as follows:

"A copy of any public documents advising that Labour Market Opinions (LMOs) may be issued for less than prevailing wage rates for the lower-skilled National Occupational Code (NOCs), and which Codes for which of these LMOs were issued."

Enclosed is a copy of the records you have requested. Please note that the documents are released in their entirety.

You are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner concerning the processing of your request within 60 days of the receipt of this notice. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be sent to the following address:

Office of the Information Commissioner 30 Victoria Street, 7th Floor Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1H3

.../2



This completes the processing of your request. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Claire Lamonde at 819-654-7003.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Holden

Director

Access to Information and Privacy

Encl.

Research, Analysis and Design Unit, Program Integrity Division, Temporary Foreign Worker Program, Employment and Social Development Canada

Province Name	Economic Region	NOC.	NOC Tible	Number of LMOs	Number of Positions
or	1010 - Avalon Peninsula				3
	THE PASSES OF TH		1010 - Avaion Peninsula Total	5	25
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	1040 - Notre DameCentral Bonavista Bay	9491 E	Boat Assemblers and Inspectors	1	4
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	1099 - Unspecified		keep	л	3 6
		7434 E	Engine Room Crew, Water Transport	~ 0	5
			Oil and Gas Well Drilling Workers and Services Operators	-	—
y		8441 F	ı	1	
			1099 - Unspecified Total	10	43
		上条ので	Newfoundland and Labrador Total	18	86
Prince Edward Island	1110 - Prince Edward Island		Nurse Aides, Orderlies and Patient Service Associates	5	
		9462 F	Industrial Butchers and Meat Cutters, Poultry Preparers and Related Workers Fish Plant Workers	2 1	122
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	1220 - North Shore	7463	Irish Plant Workers		75
	1230 - Annapolis Valley	7411 1	Truck Drivers		16
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		8611	Harvesting Labourers		oω
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	1330 - Saint JohnSt. Stephen	9618 L	Labourers in Fish Processing	1	42
			1330 - Saint John-St: Stephen Total:	3 2	42
·	1340 - FrederictonOromocto	7411 1	Truck Drivers	1	1
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	2420 - Capitale-Nationale	3413 N	Nurse Aides, Orderlies and Patient Service Associates		-
		6661 L	Light Duty Cleaners	2	14
		7445 C	Other Repairers and Servicers	_	-
			Other Trades Helpers and Labourers	-	2
		8431	General Farm Workers	٠	

Research, Analysis and Design Unit, Program Integrity Division, Temporary Foreign Worker Program,

1 2 1	6442 Outdoor Sport and Recreational Guides	2490 - Nord-du-Québec
1 2	2480 - Côte-Nord Total	
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-	9611 Labourers in Mineral and Metal Processing	
-	Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Laboure	2480 - Côte-Nord
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<u></u>	8422 Silviculture and Forestry Workers	
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<u>cc</u>	9617 Labourers in Food, Beverage and Tobacco Processing	
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-	9414 Concrete, Clay and Stone Forming Operators	
	8612 Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Labourers	2425 - Chaudière-Appalaches
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<u>, p-</u>	Nursery and Greenhouse Workers	
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Research, Analysis and Design Unit, Program Integrity Division, Temporary Foreign Worker Program, Employment and Social Development Canada

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		9461 Process Control and Machine Operators, Food and Beverage Processing	
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		7421 Heavy Equipment Operators (Except Crane)	
		7412 Bus Drivers, Subway Operators and Other Transit Operators	
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6	1	6471 Visiting Homemakers, Housekeepers and Related Occupations	
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2	2	3510 - Ottawa Total	
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Research, Analysis and Design Unit,
Program Integrity Division,
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- 1. Source: Foreign Worker System (FWS).
 2. The table shows the number of positive Labour Market Opinions (LMOs) where the stated wage was lower than the prevailing wages, by province, economic region, National Occupation Classification (NOC) codes, for Low Skill LMOs requested in 2013.
 3. The appropriate TFW program stream is recorded in the FWS at the time of processing the LMO application.
 4. Approximately 4.8% of entiries have been omitted due to keying errors.
 5. One LMO application may be submitted by an employer for any number of TFW positions for a particular occupation (le Welder).
 5. One LMO application may be submitted by an employer for any number of exemptions exist, including those provided in the General Agreement on Trade in Services and the North American Free Trade Agreement.
 6. Not all TFWs require an LMO to apply for a work permit. A number of exemptions exist, including those provided in the General Agreement on Trade in Services and the North American Free Trade Agreement.
 7. The information appearing in this table may differ from those reported in previous ESDC releases. These differences are adjustments to administrative data files as normally occur over time and reflect refinement in methods of calculation for the purpose of increasing accuracy in the way the information is presented.

Directive: Assessment of the Wage Factor on Labour Market Opinion Applications

Purpose:

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidance on assessing the wage factor when processing labour market opinion (LMO) applications for:

- Higher-skilled occupations
 (National Occupational Classification (NOC) skill type 0 and skill levels A and B)
- Lower-skilled occupations
 (NOC skill levels C and D, excluding positions under the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP), the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) and the Agricultural Stream)

NOTE:

This directive does not apply to the Quebec region.

Authority:

The Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) operates under the authority of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* (IRPR). The authority relevant to this directive is found in Section 203(3)d of the IRPR:

[203(3) An opinion provided by the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development with respect to the matters referred to in subsection (1)(b) shall be based on the following factors:

(d) whether the wages offered to the foreign national are consistent with the prevailing wage rate for the occupation and whether the working conditions meet generally accepted Canadian standards.

Background:

The following information is intended to provide Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)/Service Canada staff with a standard process to follow when assessing prevailing wages in accordance with the available labour market information. This process will help ensure that a consistent and transparent approach is applied when establishing the wage rate for temporary foreign workers (TFW). It will also ensure that the wage offered to TFWs reflects the standards by which Canadian and permanent resident employees working in the same occupation and geographic area are paid. The following three situations must be considered when determining the prevailing wage:

- 1. Collective bargaining agreements
- 2. Wage offers equal to or above the posted median wage
- 3. Wage offers below the posted median wage

NOTE:

Not every situation will be captured within these scenarios. However, regional staff can address any new scenario that may arise on an ad hoc basis in consultation with NHQ.

Guidelines:

Employers are required to pay TFWs the same wage as Canadian and permanent resident employees doing the same job in the same geographic area. The wage rate should be assessed according to:

1 - Collective Bargaining Agreements

For unionized positions, employers must offer their TFWs the same wage rate, as established under the collective bargaining agreement.

If the wage offered to a TFW is below the posted median wage, HRSDC/Service Canada staff must request a copy of the collective bargaining agreement from the employer. If the wage meets the collective bargaining agreement pay scale for the occupation and location, the wage offered should be accepted.

2 - Wage offers - equal to or above the posted median wage

Higher-skilled and lower-skilled occupations:

- Wages offered to TFWs that are equal to or above the posted median wage will be accepted.
- Employers must offer TFWs a wage rate that is above the posted median wage if their Canadian and permanent resident employees working in the same occupation and geographic area are paid this wage

3 - Wage offers - below the posted median wage

Higher-skilled occupations:

Employers who offer TFWs a wage that is:

- not more than 15% below the posted median wage will be accepted. However, these employers must demonstrate that they pay the same wage to their Canadian and permanent resident employees working in the same occupation and geographic area. (Refer to Annex A)
- more than 15% below the posted median wage will have the wage rejected, which will result in a negative LMO.

Lower-skilled occupations:

Employers who offer TFWs a wage that is:

- not more than 5% below the posted median wage will be accepted. However, these employers must demonstrate that they pay the same wage to their Canadian and permanent resident employees working in the same occupation and geographic area. (Refer to Annex B)
- more than 5% below the posted median wage will have the wage rejected, which will result in a negative LMO.

When an employer's wage offer is within a range of 15% below the posted median wage for a higher-skilled occupation, and within a range of 5% for a lower-skilled occupation, the employer must demonstrate that their Canadian and permanent resident employees working in the same occupation and geographic area are being paid the same wage. Employers will be required to provide this information at the time of application using the payroll template. (Refer to Annex C)

Payroll

Employers must refer to their payroll records to complete the payroll template. This document must then be forwarded, along with the LMO application, to HRSDC/Service Canada for assessment. By requesting employers to complete the payroll template, the TFWP minimizes the risk of collecting personal information related to the employers' current workforce (e.g. social insurance numbers).

Only employers who currently employ a full-time Canadian or permanent resident employee working in the same occupation and geographic area as described in the LMO application can use the payroll template to support a variation from the posted median wage. **Employers, who do not currently employ a Canadian or permanent resident employee, will be required to pay their TFWs the posted wage or HRSDC/Service Canada will issue a negative LMO.**

Payroll Process

Employers must complete the payroll template and include the wage information for at least one Canadian or permanent resident employee currently working in the same occupation and geographic area as requested on the LMO application. The payroll information must be provided for a minimum of three pay periods. If there are any irregularities within the information provided, HRSDC/Service Canada staff may request additional payroll information.

If HRSDC/Service Canada staff is not satisfied with the information provided in the payroll template, the employer may be asked to submit proof of payment to the worker to substantiate the information. When requesting this information, HRSDC/Service Canada staff should inform the employer not to submit any personal information pertaining to the worker (e.g. request only the first three digits of the social insurance number or the employee's first name).

Wage Assessment Considerations:

Determining the median wage:

 HRSDC/Service Canada staff must refer to the median wage as determined by the LMI Service for the occupation and sub-geographic region where the work is scheduled to take place in order to determine the prevailing wage rate. For additional information on LMI wages, visit the Working in Canada (WiC) Web site at: http://www.workingincanada.gc.ca

When wages are not available:

 In some instances, wage information may not be available on the WiC Web site. In these cases, HRSDC/Service Canada staff should request that the LMI Service generates a median wage rate for the specified position and location.

Provincial/territorial wages other than minimum wage:

- In instances where provincial/territorial governments have established wage schedules (e.g.
 Construction Industry Wages Act in Manitoba), the LMO applications will be assessed using the
 greater of:
 - o Up to 15% below the median posted wage for the occupation; or
 - o The wages set by the province/territorial legislation.

Provincial/territorial minimum wage:

 When taking into account the 15% range for higher-skilled occupations and the 5% range for lowerskilled occupations, the wage cannot go below the provincial/territorial minimum wage. This applies to all wage assessments.

General:

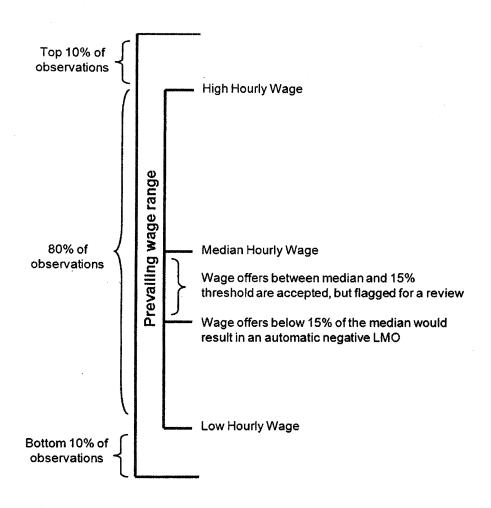
- Employer must offer at least a minimum of 30 hours of work per week.
- More information can be found under the sections for the:
 - o LCP;
 - o SAWP; and
 - o Agricultural stream.

NOTE

Refer to Annex D for scenarios that illustrate this policy.

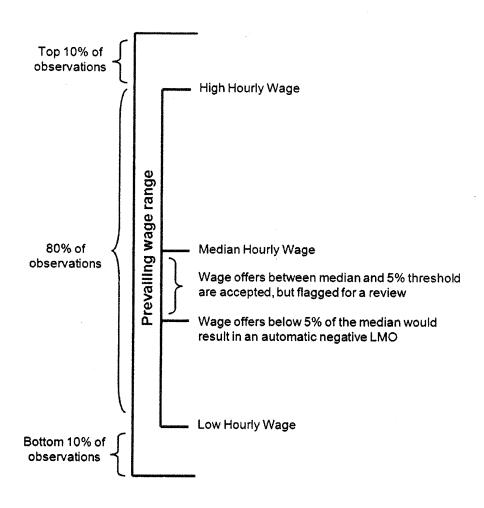
Annex A

Prevailing Hourly Wage Range Diagram for Higher-skilled Occupations



Annex B

Prevailing Hourly Wage Range Diagram for Lower-skilled Occupations



ANNEX C

Payroll Template

Employers must complete and submit this payroll template along with their labour market opinion application if they are:

- not offering their temporary foreign workers (TFW) the posted median wage; or
- offering TFWs the wage currently paid to their Canadian and permanent resident employees working in the same occupation and geographic area

Employer Name:	TANAN TERRETARIA			Date Compl	eted:	
Payroli Information Canadian citizen or p	permanent	Soc	ial insurance number	X (first 3		of 3 consecutive pay
resident employee na only)	ame (first name	digit	ts only)		periods (for 1	employee)
Earnings and hours	Number of ho	urs	Rate per hour		t amount for pay period	YTD amount
Hourly, regular rate					, p) position	
Stat holidays			***************************************			
Overtime						
TOTALS:						
Deductions					······	
CPP, El, tax, etc.				T	<u> </u>	
Other deductions				4		
Union dues, accomm	odation, etc.		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	T		······································
TOTALS:						
Comments:			***			

Earnings and hours	Number of hours	Rate per hour	Current amount for specific pay period	YTD amount
Hourly, regular rate				
Stat holidays				
Overtime				
TOTALS:				
Deductions				
CPP, EI, tax, etc.				The state of the s
Other deductions	1 2 1			A CONTRACTOR
Union dues, accomm	odation, etc.			
TOTALS:				1. A. M. L
Comments:	**************************************			

Earnings and hours	Number of hours	Rate per hour	Current amount for specific pay period	YTD amount
Hourly, regular rate				
Stat holidays				
Overtime				***************************************
TOTALS:				
Deductions			L	
CPP, El, tax, etc.				
Other deductions			<u> </u>	
Union dues, accomm	odation, etc.			
TOTALS:		(In disk-asses		
Comments:			<u> </u>	

Annex D

Prevailing Wage Policy – Scenarios

These scenarios are fictitious for the purposes of illustration.

Higher-skilled occupations:

National Occupational Classification (NOC) skill type 0, and skill levels A and B

The median wage (prevailing wage) for welders, a higher-skilled occupation, in Fort McMurray is \$35/hour.

- 1. I employ 10 Canadian welders at \$35/hour. Can I pay my foreign welders 15% less (\$29.75/hour)? If no, why not?
 - No, you are required to pay your temporary foreign worker welders a minimum of \$35/hour because this is what you pay your Canadian and permanent resident welders.
- 2. I employ 10 Canadian welders at \$40/hour. How much do I have to pay my foreign welders, and why?
 - You are required to pay your temporary foreign worker welders \$40/hour because you must pay temporary foreign workers the same wage that you pay your Canadian and permanent resident workers.
- 3. I do not employ Canadian welders. Can I pay my foreign welders 15% less than the median wage (\$35/hour)? If so, how?
 - No, you are required to pay the temporary foreign worker welders at least the median wage of \$35/hour because you do not employ any Canadian or permanent resident welders and, therefore, cannot demonstrate that you pay Canadian and permanent resident welders \$29.75/hour.
- 4. I employ Canadian welders at \$25/hour. Can I pay my foreign welders the same wage? If no, why not?
 - No, you cannot pay higher-skilled temporary foreign workers more than 15% below the median wage (\$35/hour).
- 5. I employ 10 Canadian welders at \$40/hour under a collective bargaining agreement. How much do I have to pay my foreign welders, and why?
 - For unionized positions, you are required to pay your temporary foreign worker welders the same
 wage rate, as established under the collective bargaining agreement, that is paid to your
 Canadian and permanent resident employees working in the same occupation and geographic
 area. The wage paid to temporary foreign workers will depend on the provisions of the collective
 bargaining agreement with respect to experience, etc.

Lower-skilled occupations:

National Occupational Classification (NOC) skill levels C and D (excluding occupations under the Live-in Caregiver Program, the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, and the Agricultural Stream)

The median wage (prevailing wage) for a food counter attendant, a lower-skilled occupation, in the Athabasca–Grande Prairie–Peace River area in Alberta is \$11.71/hour.

- 1. I employ 10 Canadian food counter attendants at \$11.71/hour. Can I pay my foreign food counter attendants 15% less (\$9.95/hour)? If no, why not?
 - No, you are required to pay your temporary foreign worker food counter attendants a minimum of \$11.71/hour because that is what you pay your Canadian and permanent resident food counter attendants.
- 2. I employ Canadian food counter attendants at \$10.50/hour. Can I pay my temporary foreign worker food counter attendants the same? If no, why not?
 - No, you cannot pay lower-skilled temporary foreign workers more than 5% below the median wage.