

# Travel to Canada for Entertainment Professionals

## Business Visitor: Work Permit-Exempt Work

People can travel to Canada for short-term visits that are work- or business-related, such as to go to meetings, attend film festivals, go to an audition, etc., without getting a work permit. However, they cannot enter the workforce or be paid for anything they are doing in Canada. On entry, they would state they are entering as a visitor and the purpose of their travel.

### Live Performance

**Artists** visiting Canada who are doing a live performance (band members, technical crew, management, etc.) can enter Canada as a VISITOR.

- Although they are coming to Canada to work, live performances are WORK-PERMIT exempt.
- People should enter with proof of their employment, an invitation from the presenter, or similar.

### Film / Television

**Professionals** (actors, directors, choreographers, etc.) coming to Canada to work for a short-term may be able to use a work-permit exemption under "Global Skills Strategy."

**Producers** can enter as "Business Visitors" to secure production in Canada.

There are two options:

- A 15-day work permit exemption, which can be used once in 6 months
- A 30-day work permit exemption, which can be used once in 12 months.

Individuals expected to be in Canada for more than 30 days must apply for a work permit.

# TYPES OF WORK PERMITS

## CLOSED PERMITS

**Most film and television work in Canada that goes over 30 days requires a work permit, and most work permits are “closed.”**

- A “closed” work permit is specific to one employer and one project.
- There are several types of work permits that can be obtained for work in film and television. These depend on the project, the position the applicant is hired for, and the scope and duration of the work.
- For US citizens, the applications are prepared in advance, and the work permit is issued when they enter Canada at the border or airport.
- Depending on the type of closed work permit, they can generally be prepared, submitted, and approved in less than a week (faster when necessary).
- People who require a visa issued in advance to travel to Canada (i.e., people traveling on passports from Mexico and countries in Asia, Africa, Middle East, South America, etc.) would have to apply for their travel visa and work permit online in advance and would not be able to travel to Canada until it is processed and approved. It will take a minimum of 4-6 weeks to prepare and process.
- A person can only apply for a closed work permit when they have been offered a job in Canada.

## OPEN PERMITS

**Some people qualify for an “open” work permit because they are the spouse or dependent child of a person who has been issued a Canadian work permit or study permit.**

- A person cannot apply for an open work permit as a standalone permit.
- They have to qualify as an accompanying spouse or dependent child of a person who has been issued a work permit or study permit to remain in Canada for 6 months or longer.

# We help entertainment professionals get into Canada for work and play!

## GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- US Citizens and Permanent Residents (Green Card) do not need to do anything before they travel to Canada.
- People traveling with passports from UK, Europe, Australia, etc. need to get an eTA (electronic transit authorization) before they fly into Canada. An eTA is not needed for driving into Canada. People can apply for an eTA online prior to their trip. Processing is usually 24-72 hours.
- People traveling with passports from Mexico and most countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central America, and South America will require a Visitor Visa (TRV) to be able to travel into Canada as a visitor. People must apply online prior to travel. Visas require fingerprinting and passport stamping. Processing will take 4-12 weeks.

**If you have any questions or concerns about traveling to Canada, contact Mundial Law for a consultation.**

### About Mundial Law

Mundial Law is a boutique law firm that works with entertainment professionals from around the world to solve their Canadian immigration challenges, including obtaining criminal inadmissibility waivers (temporary resident permits) and rehabilitation, work permits for film and television, entry visas for people from visa-required countries, and electronic transit authorizations (eTAs).

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