

# Single mom gets to stay in Canada — but spurns all suitors

# Marriage a no-no!

Stories by PAUL COWAN  
Staff Writer

One of Alberta's most eligible bachelorettes has been given the green light to stay in Canada.

But Kateryna Geleta, 44, said it's still no, no and no to anyone asking her to get married.

Geleta has received countless marriage proposals after she and her four-year-old daughter Solomiya were threatened with deportation back to Ukraine after the death of her husband in 2000.

"I like quiet life," she told *The Sun* yesterday.

"I don't like to use marriage for to stay in Canada. My husband passed away just three years ago and I loved him very much."

*The Sun* received several calls from readers who had marriage proposals for Geleta after we covered her impending deportation.

Some of them were widowers with children of their own.

Geleta had been told to get out of Canada by June 27 last year. Immigration officials had ruled her marriage to Lamont farmer Steve Geleta months before his death from cancer was a sham.

But after her plight was revealed in *The Sun* on June 7, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Denis Coderre stepped in and issued a special permit allowing her to stay in Canada for a year.

Yesterday, she was granted landed immigrant status.

"I would like to express my deep thank you to all people, organizations and all media for their enormous support and understanding," Geleta said in a written statement.

"During my immigration process, my struggle to stay in Canada, I always felt that I was not alone, there were people around that I could turn to for help or advice."

Geleta met her husband when he visited Ukraine in 1991. She moved to Lamont in 1999.

His first attempt to sponsor her failed because the couple were not married. After he died, officials ruled she had no sponsor and would have to leave Canada.

Now that she has permanent-resident status, Geleta's first priority is to learn to speak English.

"I need to speak good English to stay in Canada," she explained.

"Then maybe I go to university and become a teacher — this is my job before I come to Canada."

Geleta said her main reason for staying in Canada is to provide a future for her daughter.

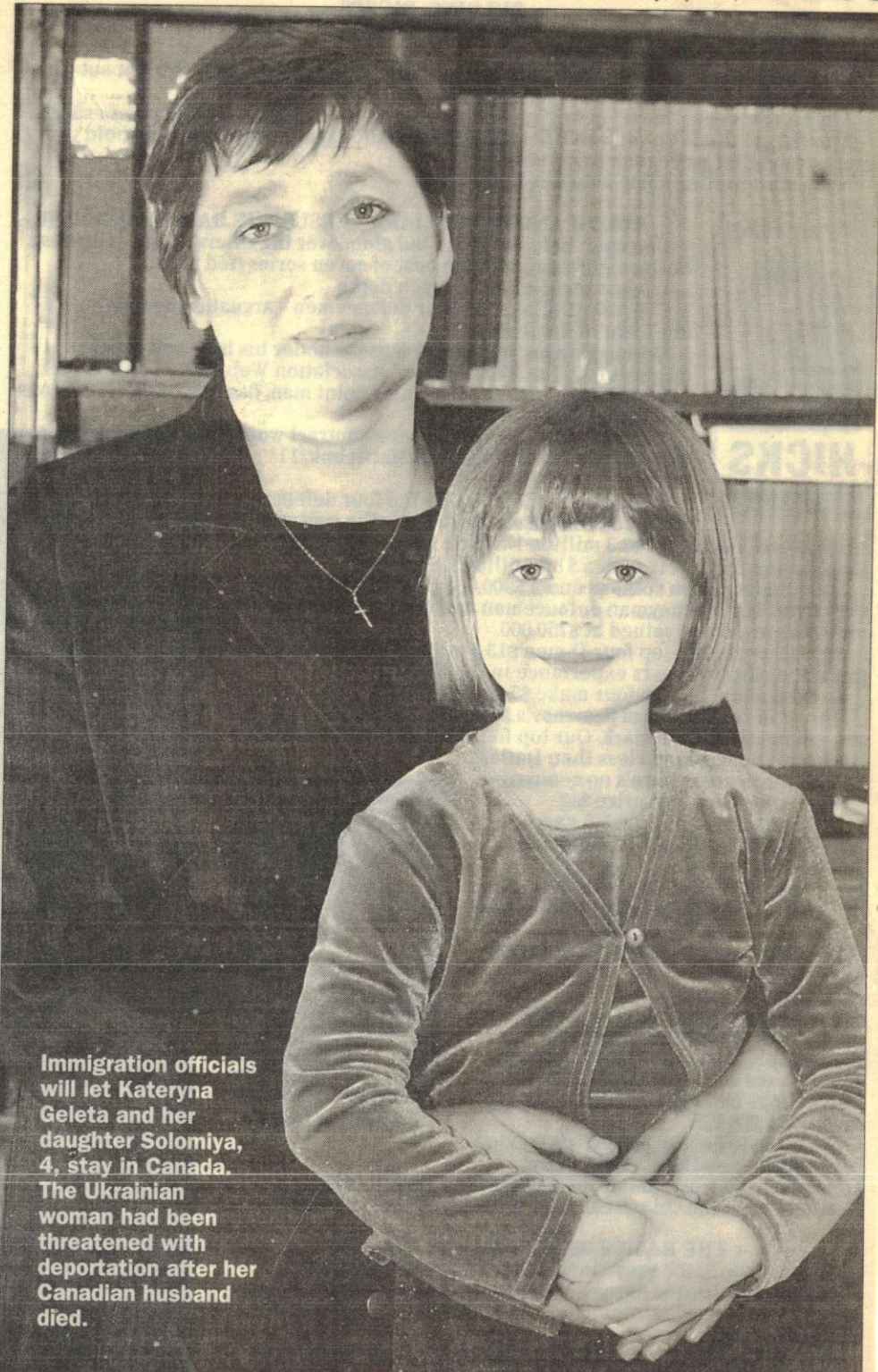
"This is not easy for me," she said. "This is a strange country for me, but my daughter can have a better life here."

Solomiya, who already had Canadian citizenship through her father, is delighted at the news.

"My dad is here," she said shyly, referring to her father's gravesite.

"Sometimes we get to go visit him."

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Immigration officials will let Kateryna Geleta and her daughter Solomiya, 4, stay in Canada. The Ukrainian woman had been threatened with deportation after her Canadian husband died.