

# Deportation delayed a year

Mother, daughter,  
4, allowed to stay

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A Ukrainian widow facing deportation with her daughter, 4, will be allowed to stay in Canada at least one more year.

Kateryna Geleta had been asked to leave the country by June 27, but a special permit issued Thursday by federal Citizenship and Immigration Minister Denis Coderre will put her move on hold.

"I lost all feeling. I was feeling so depressed, but now I am feeling elated," Geleta said in excited Russian. "I am feeling so strong. Everybody wants to help. My friends took me out to a restaurant. I am very grateful I ended up in such a country that people act when they see there is injustice."

Coderre's permit gives Geleta a 12-month window to reapply for permanent residency. Her last application was rejected by local immigration officials, who noted they could not be certain Geleta's relationship with her Canadian husband was legitimate.

Her lawyer, Shirish Chotalia,

said she was surprised and relieved by Coderre's decision. "It is fairly rare for the minister to intervene like he has ... but we definitely think he's done the right thing here, sparing her the emotional cost of court proceedings."

The lawyer also believes there won't be any problems with her client's next bid for permanent residency. "It's not a done deal yet, but I don't see any impediment to that happening."

Geleta, 43, has been campaigning to remain in Canada based on her marriage to Lamont farmer Steve Geleta, who was 27 years her senior.

With files from Dan Ovsey



BRUCE EDWARDS, THE JOURNAL

Kateryna Geleta and her  
daughter, Solomiya, 4.