# Decision on deportation order this week for widow, daughter

## Ukrainian woman married Canadian farmer who died

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A Ukrainian widow fighting to stay in Canada with her small daughter will likely learn this week whether federal Immigration Minister Denis Coderre will come to her aid.

Kateryna Geleta, 43, has been ordered to leave the country by June 27 but has asked Coderre to overturn the decision.

"We're going to keep our fingers crossed," said Shirish Chotalia, Geleta's lawyer. "We're hoping the minister can carry this and prevent the expense, both financial and emotional, of court proceedings."

Chotalia said she spoke to an official at Anne McLellan's office, who told her that Coderre plans to make his decision in the next few days. In case Coderre doesn't intervene, Chotalia has filed papers with the Federal Court of Canada for a judicial review of the case.

If the court agrees to hear the matter, it could take up to a year to get a ruling, Chotalia said. She expects immigration officials to allow Geleta to remain in Canada during the court process.

Geleta is campaigning to stay, based on the fact she married and had a daughter with Lamont farmer Steve Geleta. The couple had a nine-year relationship prior to marrying, with Steve making frequent trips to Ukraine.

He had cancer when he wed Kateryna in Lamont in March 2000. He died five months later, but his wife and daughter have remained in the town, where the little girl just finished preschool.

Geleta said it would be unfair to force her daughter to move back to Ukraine after experiencing Canada's high-quality education system and health lifestyle.



BRUCE EDWARDS, THE JOURNAL
**Kateryna Geleta and her four-year-old daughter Solomiya**

In rejecting Geleta's request for permanent residency, local immigration officials noted they could not be certain her relationship with Steve was legitimate.

A spokesman at Coderre's office in Ottawa refused comment, but said the minister has occasionally intervened in past cases.

Crash fatality identified