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# Widow gets to stay

By PAUL COWAN  
Staff Writer

A Ukrainian woman threatened with deportation after her Lamont farmer husband died will formally receive permission to remain in Canada today, say officials.

Kateryna Geleta is also expected to apply for a work permit when she travels to Edmonton to receive a special ministerial permit allowing her one year of residency.



**Kateryna Geleta**  
Special permit

"She's a hard-working woman who wants to contribute to this country as much as she can," said immigration lawyer Shirish Chotalia.

"The ministerial permit gives her one year to submit an application to remain in Canada; it is not the granting of landed immigrant status."

Geleta was told by immigration officers to leave Canada voluntarily or face deportation proceedings after they declared her marriage was a sham.

But following appeals, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Denis Coderre has issued a special permit for her to remain in Canada on compassionate grounds.

A source in the minister's office said her application to stay in Canada would prob-

ably be successful.

"Unless something shows up in the background checks that would disqualify her from permanent residency, such as a serious criminal record, I would say her application will probably succeed," he said.

Geleta fell afoul of the immigration system after her husband, Steve, died two years ago from cancer.

The couple met in 1991 when the farmer visited Ukraine.

They had a daughter, Solomiya, now four, who has Canadian citizenship. Geleta moved to Canada with her daughter in 1999.

But the couple did not marry until four months before the farmer died from cancer. Her husband had been sponsoring her for landed immigrant status, and after he died officials ruled she had no sponsor and would have to leave Canada.

## Overdose verdict angers parents

By RAQUEL EXNER  
Staff Writer

Parents in Hinton are outraged a local day-home operator who was in charge of a baby who ingested an overdose level of drugs was only handed an 18-month conditional sentence, to be served in the community.

Cara Lee Diakiw, 22, pleaded guilty in St. Albert provincial court Monday to possession of a substance and was handed the conditional sentence, along with three years probation.

"I personally don't think (the sentence) is good enough," said Jo-Anne Goertzen, 26, a mother of two. "I think she should've had jail time. It's a good thing nothing else happened to the baby. She could've died."

Donna Currie, 27, another mother, said the sentence "is like a slap on the hand. That was somebody's child in danger."

On March 2, 2001, the baby's father went to retrieve the 11-month-old child and her sister, 2½, at the Caring Ways Day Home when he noticed the baby was acting strangely.

The father took the baby directly to the local hospital and she was later taken to University hospital.

Child protection officers called