

# Widow's fate unclear

By PAUL COWAN  
Staff Writer

Confusion last night surrounded the status of a Ukrainian widow and her four-year-old daughter threatened with deportation.

A Sun source said that Immigration Minister Denis Coderre has issued Kateryna Geleta with a special ministerial permit to remain in Canada for a year.

But Coderre's office said the minister had only committed himself to not removing Geleta and her daughter Solomiya from Canada on June 27.

"The minister said in the House this afternoon (Wednesday) that she will not be removed on the 27th and that he was very sympathetic," said his spokesman, Rene Mercier.

"That was done to reassure the family.

"All options for the future have to be con-

sidered." But a Sun source said the minister has already decided to issue a special permit on compassionate and humanitarian grounds.

"The minister has looked at the merits of the case and feels it's in the best interest of the child and her mother to remain in Canada so she can officially apply to stay here," said a source close to the case.

The pair had been told to leave Canada by June 27 or face deportation proceedings.

Their woes go back to the death of Kateryna's husband Steve from cancer in 2000. He had been sponsoring her for immigrant status and after he died, immigration officials ruled she had no sponsor and must leave the country.

The couple met in Ukraine in 1991 and married nine years later, only months before the Lamont-area farmer died.

The child has Canadian citizenship through her dad. Geleta, a schoolteacher, brought her daughter to Canada in 1999.

Immigration officials said they were not certain the couple's relationship was genuine.

Geleta's lawyer, Shirish Chotalia, said yesterday she hadn't heard about any special permit. "We had hoped he would give her landed immigrant status," she said. "But if it's true about the permit, it's a step in the right direction."

Chotalia has filed papers with the Federal Court for a judicial review of the case. If the court agrees to hear the case, it would take about a year to be dealt with.

Chotalia said if a special permit is issued, the request for a judicial review will be dropped.

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## Home dialysis coming by 2004

A new Alberta pilot program will bring dialysis treatment to the comfort of a patient's home, which will cut health costs and improve care, says Capital Health.

"It's cheaper for the system and it's better medically," said Capital Health spokesman Steve Buick.

The \$2-million program, covered in part by the province's Health Innovation Fund, will see 17 rural patients treated at home by 2004. The patients will be able to connect themselves to a dialysis machine at home before going to sleep. A Capital Health Link nurse monitors the treatment through the night via the Internet.

Capital Health Link is a free telephone hotline manned by

gency room visits.

Buick said the program is expected to reduce the annual cost of dialysis by almost \$15,000 per patient.

Nocturnal dialysis leads to better blood-pressure control, improved nutrition and reduced use of medications because it can be given more often and for a longer period, says Capital Health. Traditional dialysis in a hospital is given three times a week.

Buick stressed that the new program means patients won't have to travel a vast distance to a dialysis unit.

The program was developed with a \$1.5-million grant from the province's Health Innovation Fund, which was established in 1999 to encourage

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