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Dear Judge:

I am including a note about our entry and the impact it had for Ukrainian newcomers to Saskatchewan. We broke a provincial news story and our article led to a change that made it easier for Ukrainian newcomers to take post-secondary training in Saskatchewan.

On April 23, 2023, I attended an event in Wawota where a Ukrainian newcomer to Canada under CUAETS, the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, told me that because people under the program are considered neither refugees nor permanent residents, they must pay international student fees. The Grade 12 student who spoke to me wanted to attend university in Saskatchewan to become a dentist like her parents, but could not because of the very high international student fees.

I spoke to two of our local MLAs that day and two days later, and on Thursday of that week I interviewed Saskatchewan's Minister of Advanced Education. In that interview, he promised a solution, and in the following issue of the World-Spectator was the young Ukrainian's story and the minister's comments.

Two weeks after my interview with the minister, the Ukrainian student, myself, and the Mayor of Wawota who has helped bring Ukrainians to the area, were invited to the provincial legislature, where the minister announced a new program through which the province would pay the difference in tuition between Canadian tuition and international student fees for Ukrainian students, plus provide a living allowance.

A month later, the Prime Minister of Canada addressed the Ukrainian parliament and used the incident as an example of how welcoming Canada is to Ukrainians, and quoted from our story.

I hope this explanation helps explain the impact of this story.

Thank-you

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