

Gregory Sokolich  
3100 Lorette Ave. Unit 7  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3T 2N2

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IRCC

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in order to vouch for the committed relationship between Ariel Sokolich and Greta Thomlinson. As Ariel's younger brother, I have always admired his kindness and the fact that he's always there for you, whether you're his brother or a good friend. I have come to know Greta these last 3 years and deeply appreciate what a wonderful person she is and how she's become a close friend of our family here in Winnipeg.

Ariel met Greta on a camping trip in late August 2016 to the lakes district in Minnesota. I remember Ariel telling me he had met someone really special at our family Christmas in 2016. Greta is from Minneapolis, and he was so pleased that she lived relatively close to Winnipeg. After visiting her in Minneapolis a couple of times that fall, in March of 2017, Greta flew up to Winnipeg to visit Ariel here in Winnipeg. There's five of us siblings plus our parents in Winnipeg so we were really curious to meet Greta, but we gave Ariel his space and finally got to meet her on her second visit to Winnipeg in May 2017. It was wonderful and we realized how much in common they had and how well they seemed to get along.

When they decided, they were going to get married in October of 2017, Ariel and I talked about who should move where and he mentioned that Greta was willing to move to Canada. She's an agricultural engineer, so we expect her to be able to find well-paid employment here in Winnipeg. Given the fact that Ariel's works for the federal government as a procurement manager, having Greta move to Winnipeg made more sense. They were both really eager to get married rather than waiting a little longer, and both families supported their decision. We met Greta's family on Labour Day weekend in 2017, visiting them at their cottage on West Rush Lake which is about an hour's drive from Minneapolis. We all felt so at home with the Thomlinson family and had a barbeque together and spent a fantastic weekend.

The wedding was held at their cottage a month later on Saturday October 7, 2017, so my parents and siblings plus a few of Ariel's friends drove down from Winnipeg. The ceremony was simple and beautiful on a lovely fall day. I'll remember it for the rest of my life, especially since Ariel had asked me to be his best man. Greta's parents, her

grandmother, and her brother as well as several cousins, made us feel part of their family.

When I surprised everyone in the family the following year by telling them I was getting married, Greta and Ariel along with everyone else, attended my wedding in Winnipeg on May 19, 2018 (the Saturday of the Victoria Day weekend which we had to explain to Greta).

As Ariel's brother and a witness to their relationship as a couple, I can attest that they have a loving, solid relationship and are also each other's best friend. Please contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

*Greg Sokolich*

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