Dear Shoko -

Yesterday we received your application form. We are happy to be your host family in Canada. Saskatoon is a beautiful city - population 200,000 people. It is a city of bridges connecting the east University area, where we live to the west downtown area.

We believe firmly in higher education and are glad you do as well. My husband is a research physicist at the University and I am an educational psychologist.

At present, I am making the choice to be a stay at home parent for our two dear children - James who is 5 years and Desirée who is 4 years old.

I am eager to hear more about your chosen field of linguistics. I know this is both an important and interesting field.

We will gladly pick you up at the airport. David will meet you - if I can get a babysitter I will likely be there as well. I will plan to be there.

We may also have another international female student stay for the May-June term. We will provide accomodations for one student to continue on with other terms if they so wish to stay longer.

The children are getting excited to meet you and we plan to sign out a lot of books from the library on Japan. My sister taught school and English as a second language in Japan for a few years in the 1980's. We enjoy Japanese food so I hope to learn a few good ideas from you. You are welcome to explore my kitchen.

Dear Shoko, I am enclosing a few pictures (*actually only one*) of the family. You will become like a member and I know we will learn a great deal from each other.

You are full of adventure and spirit and courage to travel across the world, enter into a foreign culture and language to learn.

You are close in age to my youngest sister who also goes to University in Saskatoon. I will introduce you to her. She is a shy (quiet) person but a pleasure to know. We know the University Campus well, since David and I did both our undergraduate and graduate work in Saskatoon. We will help you make friends with the University - its classes, buses, teachers, etc.

We look forward to meeting you. Feel free to call or write us anytime. You are wise to come early to orientate yourself to a new sity, family and University in an entirely different country.

May your long journey go well.

Welcome to our family and country.

~ Dorene Steele