Publisher's Note

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CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS ANNOTATED

Dunn • Bernstein Greenspan • Laskin Release No. 1, January 2025

In this Update

Caselaw Highlights

- R. v. Wahabi: the Manitoba Court of Appeal held that the term "person" in the provisions of the Criminal Code that permit justices to make production orders, is broad enough to include jails and correctional centers.
- *R. v. Samuels:* the Ontario Court of Appeal excluded a gun where police delayed access to counsel for 9 hours while search warrants were executed.

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Highlights (cont'd)

- Sri Lankan Canadian Action Coalition v. Ontario (Attorney General), 2024 ONCA 657: the Ontario Superior Court concluded that legislation commemorating Tamil-Ontarians' experiences of the Sri Lankan war did not violate Sri Lankan Coalitions' section 2(b) and 15(1) rights;
- Wright v. Yukon (Government of), 2024 YKSC 41: legislation authorizing the territorial Director of Public Safety to initiate accelerated evictions was found to infringe tenants' section 7 and 15(1) Charter rights;
- *Mathur v. Ontario*, 2024 ONCA 762: the Ontario court of Appeal remitted a novel section 7 and 15(1) claim relating to provincial climate change measures back for a new hearing, rejecting its original characterization as a positive rights case;
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated et al v. The Commissioner of Nunavut et al, 2024 NUCA 9: the Nunavut Court of Appeal rejected the argument that section 15(1) cannot be used to advance a claim related to language protections for non-English and French populations;
- Ontario (Minister of Health) v. Grassroots for Affordable Jewish Education Inc., 2024 ONCS 4905: the Ontario Superior Court reaffirmed that section 93 of the Constitution cannot be utilized to expand freedom of religion and equality rights under sections 2(a) and 15(1) of the Charter;
- Vancouver Island University v. Kishawi, 2024 BCSC 1609: the British Columbia Supreme Court rejected the argument that the common law of trespass should evolve in accordance with *Charter* values to derogate from the property rights of private landowners:
- Jacob v. Canada (Attorney General), 2024 ONCA 648: the Ontario Court of Appeal concluded that the income thresholds prescribed by federal income replacement schemes during the COVID-19 pandemic infringed the appellant's section 15(1) rights, but found that the infringement was justified by section 1; and
- Matsqui-Abbotsford Impact Society v. Abbotsford (City), 2024 BCSC 1902: the British Columbia Supreme Court declined to grant an interim injunction to prevent the removal of an unhoused encampment on section 7 and 15(1) grounds, but ordered that occupants be removed gradually in a phased, Charter-compliant manner.