



**SUPREME COURT OF CANADA**

**CITATION:** R. v. Vrbanic\*

**APPEAL HEARD AND JUDGMENT  
RENDERED:** December 4, 2025  
**REASONS FOR JUDGMENT:** to follow  
**DOCKET:** 41741

**BETWEEN:**

**His Majesty The King in Right of Canada**  
Appellant

and

**Robert Vrbanic and  
Sarah Josipovic**  
Respondents

- and -

**Attorney General of Ontario,  
Attorney General of Quebec,  
Attorney General of Manitoba,  
Attorney General of British Columbia,  
Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions,  
Battered Women's Support Services Association,  
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and  
Criminal Lawyers' Association (Ontario)**  
Interveners

**CORAM:** Wagner C.J. and Karakatsanis, Côté, Rowe, Martin, Kasirer, Jamal, O'Bonsawin and Moreau JJ.

**UNANIMOUS  
JUDGMENT READ**

Wagner C.J.

**BY:**

(para. 1)

**COUNSEL:**

*Jennifer Conroy and Ian Bell*, for the appellant.

*Jeff Marshman, Daniel Goldbloom and Alexa Klein*, for the respondents.

*Jeremy Tatum, Akshay Aurora and Philippe Cowle*, for the intervener Attorney General of Ontario.

*Sylvain Leboeuf and François Hénault*, for the intervener Attorney General of Quebec.

*Joel N. Myskiw and Michael Bodner*, for the intervener Attorney General of Manitoba.

*Lesley Ruzicka, K.C., and Mark Sheardown*, for the intervener Attorney General of British Columbia.

*Xavier Lyonnais and Daphné Godin-Garito*, for the intervener Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions.

*Caitlin Ohama-Darcus and Abbey Fortin*, for the intervener Battered Women's Support Services Association.

*Elaine Ahn*, for the intervener Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

*Frank Addario and Nikolas De Stefano*, for the intervener Criminal Lawyers' Association (Ontario).

**NOTE:** This document is subject to editorial revision before its reproduction in final form in the *Canada Supreme Court Reports*.

\* Neutral citation to follow.

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December 5, 2025

Le 5 décembre 2025

Coram: Wagner C.J. and Karakatsanis,  
Côté, Rowe, Martin, Kasirer, Jamal,  
O’Bonsawin and Moreau JJ.

Coram : Le juge en chef Wagner et les juges  
Karakatsanis, Côté, Rowe, Martin, Kasirer,  
Jamal, O’Bonsawin et Moreau

**BETWEEN:**

**ENTRE :**

His Majesty The King in Right of Canada

Sa Majesté le Roi du chef du Canada

Appellant

Appelant

- and -

- et -

Robert Vrbanic and Sarah Josipovic

Robert Vrbanic et Sarah Josipovic

Respondents

Intimés

- and -

- et -

Attorney General of Ontario, Attorney  
General of Quebec, Attorney General of  
Manitoba, Attorney General of British  
Columbia, Director of Criminal and Penal  
Prosecutions, Battered Women’s Support  
Services Association, Canadian  
Association of Chiefs of Police and  
Criminal Lawyers’ Association (Ontario)

Procureur général de l’Ontario, procureur  
général du Québec, procureur général du  
Manitoba, procureur général de la  
Colombie-Britannique, directeur des  
poursuites criminelles et pénales, Battered  
Women’s Support Services Association,  
Association canadienne des chefs de police  
et Criminal Lawyers’ Association (Ontario)

Interveners

Intervenants

## JUDGMENT

The appeal from the judgment of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, Number COA-23-CR-0524, **2025 ONCA 151**, dated February 28, 2025, was heard on December 4, 2025, and the Court on that day delivered the following judgment orally:

THE CHIEF JUSTICE — We are all of the view to allow the appeal, to set aside the order of a stay, and to remit this matter back for trial. Reasons to follow.

## JUGEMENT

L'appel interjeté contre l'arrêt de la Cour d'appel de l'Ontario, numéro COA-23-CR-0524, **2025 ONCA 151**, daté du 28 février 2025, a été entendu le 4 décembre 2025 et la Cour a prononcé oralement le même jour le jugement suivant :

[TRADUCTION]

LE JUGE EN CHEF — Nous sommes toutes et tous d'avis d'accueillir le pourvoi, d'annuler l'ordonnance d'arrêt des procédures et de renvoyer l'affaire à procès. Motifs à suivre.

C.J.C.  
J.C.C.