

CANADA / JUDGMENT

R. v. Johnson

2025 BCSC 1021

COURT

Supreme Court of British Columbia

DECIDED

31 March 2025

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2025 BCSC 1021 R. v. Johnson IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA Citation: R. v. Johnson, 2025 BCSC 1021 Date: 20250331 Docket: 37276-1-T Registry: Vancouver Rex v. Jason Gordon Johnson Gary Dhami - and - Docket: 37277-1-T Registry: Vancouver Rex v. Jason Gordon Johnson Before: The Honourable Madam Justice Murray Oral Reasons for Sentence (re Accused Jason Gordon Johnson) Counsel for the Crown: C.A. Sauder Counsel for the Accused, Jason Gordon Johnson: W.E. Jessop For the Accused, Gary Dhami: No appearance Place and Date of Trial/Hearing: Vancouver, B.C. March 31, 2025 Place and Date of Judgment: Vancouver, B.C. March 31, 2025

- [1] THE COURT: When I first heard the joint submission and I looked at the indictments and I heard the facts, I thought this is really low. But having learned about you and, more importantly, having heard from you throughout the morning, I can see why counsel landed where they did.
- [2] Coming from where you did and experiencing what you have, it is a miracle that you are here so solid. You should be congratulated.
- [3] It is up to you to break the cycle and only you can do it. I know you said that you are in a good place because you are surrounded by good people, but it seems to be more than that. I think it is coming from within, because it has got to come from within. You cannot rely on people around you. That is all good, but I think you are pretty solid.
- [4] THE ACCUSED: That's [inaudible/not near microphone] it's been a positive change, for sure, like yeah, I can't explain it.
- [5] THE COURT: Well -- well, I am really glad, because that is a beautiful little girl you have sitting there, and the last thing you want is for your kids to go through what you went through.

- [6] And I do not need to sit here and talk to you about the destruction that you cause by trafficking. You get people hooked on drugs that have certainly impacted your life tragically and significantly. It always surprises me, and I know it is easy for me to say, but that people go through things like that and they themselves become addicted, and yet they go on to traffic and get more people addicted. It just seems to be like that. That does not make sense, but I get it. It is a cycle.
- [7] Yes, and you are taking responsibility and you are breaking the cycle.
- [8] So three and a half years is a long time. You will not be in there the whole time, you know that I am sure. I hope you take advantage of programs that are offered to you. You could probably take university courses. I mean, I do not know, but I hope for you that you come out of this the same person you are now, maybe stronger, because you can get that off your shoulders.
- [9] THE ACCUSED: I'll probably come out better. That's kind of the way I've been going the last couple years is any position that [inaudible/not near microphone] --
- [10] THE COURT: I think you will. I think you -- I really think you will.
- [11] So given the unique circumstances of this case, given you and what you have done and where you are going, I am satisfied that the sentence proposed by counsel does meet the principles of sentencing. In this case, the paramount considerations are deterrence, both general and specific- although I do not think you need any more deterrence- and protection of the public through sending a message loud and clear that if you traffic drugs, you are going to go to jail and it is going to be significant.
- [12] So I accept the sentence proposed by counsel. Do you want to stand up?
- [13] I sentence you to three and a half years.
- [14] In addition, I am going to make the ancillary orders that have been agreed on. So pursuant to s. 109(2) of the Criminal Code you are prohibited from possessing weapons for a period of 10 years. And pursuant to s. 487.051(3)(b), I order that samples be taken from you suitable for DNA analysis. They will be taken from you in custody.
- [15] In addition, I order a victim fine surcharge in the amount of \$200. You can sit down now, Mr. Johnson, because that is the main part of the sentencing. So --
- [16] CNSL W. JESSOP: Sometimes they say 30 days, payable 30 days after his release, Justice, if -- or I mean --
- [17] THE COURT: Is that what you -- is that your submission?
- [18] CNSL W. JESSOP: Yes.
- [19] THE COURT: Okay, payable 30 days after your release from custody.

- [20] And I will sign this consent forfeiture.
- [21] CNSL C. SAUDER: Thank you, Justice.
- [22] THE COURT: Thank you.
- [23] CNSL C. SAUDER: And with respect to the weapons prohibition, just for clarity, it is the period of 10 years from possession of any firearm, other than cross-bow, prohibited weapon, restricted weapon, prohibited device, ammunition, prohibited ammunition, and explosive substance for a period of 10 years. And then there is a lifetime aspect to that under s. 109(2), and that is just he is prohibited from possessing a prohibited firearm, restricted firearm, prohibited weapon, prohibited device, and prohibited ammunition for life. I just specify that on the record for clarity with respect to s. 109(2) of the Criminal Code.
- [24] THE COURT: Thank you, that is not in your written submissions. Okay, thank you.
- [25] CNSL C. SAUDER: Thank you, Justice. It's just --
- [26] THE COURT: I am going to give you back the materials. Here you go.
- [27] THE CLERK: And a stay on the remainder?
- [28] THE COURT: And the case book. Yes, all the remaining counts are stayed. And Mr. Johnson, I wish you the best.
- [29] CNSL C. SAUDER: Justice, there -- there --
- [30] THE COURT: Sorry, Crown counsel has not finished.
- [31] CNSL C. SAUDER: I just note, because of procedures, there are -- there is that second file of Mr. Johnson's where he is charged alone on the indictment.
- [32] THE COURT: I have just stayed all the remaining counts.
- [33] CNSL C. SAUDER: Oh, oh, okay. I just wanted for clarity, thank you, Justice.
- [34] THE COURT: Yes, on both indictments, thank you.
- [35] CNSL C. SAUDER: Thank you.
- [36] THE COURT: And actually on the -- is there a co-accused on the conspiracy? So that would be the counts are stayed against Mr. Johnson only. Thank you.
- [37] CNSL C. SAUDER: That's correct, Justice, thank you.
- [38] THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Johnson, I wish you the best. I know you will come out even stronger, and I want to commend you on what you have done.
- [39] THE ACCUSED: Thank you, Your Honour.
- [40] THE COURT: Okay, thank you. "The Honourable Madam Justice Murray"

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