



He's done his home work

Exclusive: Canadian author and artist Douglas Coupland talks to Metro about his new line of furniture PAGE 28

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LEAFS SPOIL PENS' PARTY

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James van Riemsdyk celebrates his second-period goal against the Pittsburgh Penguins at Consol Energy Center on Wednesday in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Leafs forward scored twice, contributing to Toronto's 5-2 win. JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES

Black Friday for Rob Ford?

Mayor to learn his fate. Appeal-court ruling on the conflict-of-interest case will determine if he still holds city's top job

Rob Ford and the rest of Toronto will learn Friday morning if the courts have ejected him from office midway through his turbulent four-year term.

The news set Toronto City Hall abuzz Wednesday as councillors pondered the possibilities ahead and how they will proceed if Canada's biggest city suddenly finds itself mayorless.

"This would be precedent-setting — a very big decision that will go down in the history books," said Coun. Paula Fletcher (Ward 30, Toronto Danforth), who has often fought Ford's conservative agenda.

"Council would have to act very carefully, very wisely and in a way that's fair to everyone, including Rob Ford."

At 9:30 a.m. Friday, lawyer Clayton Ruby, representing Toronto citizen Paul Magder, and Alan Lenczner, Ford's lawyer, will learn by email

if a three-member Divisional Court panel has upheld or nullified a lower-court ruling that Ford breached the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act at a February 2012 council meeting and the mayor's office is officially "vacant."

The lawyers and their staff and clients have agreed not to share the news until the ruling appears at 10:30 a.m. on a Divisional Court website.

John Mascarini, a municipal legal expert not involved in the case, said the judges' quick response — only 18 days after the appeal hearing — suggests it is a unanimous ruling but not which way it has gone.

Coun. Fletcher said that, if Ford is out, she will push for a byelection.

If council rejects that option, it will have to consider appointing Ford back into the mayor's chair, she said, adding she can't support choosing a colleague to govern if that person hasn't been elected to the job.

Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday expressed confidence that Ford will win the appeal. If not, he supports appointing Ford. Otherwise, Holyday (Ward 3, Etobicoke Centre) has said he would put his name forward as caretaker mayor.

'What if?' scenarios

If two or more judges find no legal fault with the previous ruling, Ford is immediately out of office unless they specify something different.

- **Acting mayor.** Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday would become acting mayor.
- **Caretaker.** Council would have 60 days to decide how the next mayor will be chosen — possibly a multiple-ballot runoff to appoint a caretaker mayor until the term ends in late 2014.
- **Ballots.** Another option is a city-wide byelection that would cost more than \$7 million.
- **Or maybe not.** But if a majority of the judges decide a legal error was made and it was serious enough to nullify the decision, Ford is off the hook and remains mayor.

"I think — as a lot of people do — that the penalty is too severe for what actually happened," Holyday said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Late Breaking

A nine-year-old boy was critically injured after a shooting in Brampton late last night. More at metronews.ca

Halfpipe half-baked

Olympian Ross Rebagliati plans to open a medical marijuana franchise under the name Ross' Gold PAGE 16

Biden his time

VP Joe Biden hints he may run for president in 2016 PAGE 11



Coupland authors new furniture line

Stuck in your JPod?
Best-selling author creates line with writers and artists in mind

Furniture designer is the latest addition to author Douglas Coupland's growing list of accomplishments.

The best-selling author teamed up with SwitzerCultCreative, a brother-sister luxury design collection, to create a line of furniture that is being unveiled at Toronto's Interior Design Show this weekend.

When I first heard about the furniture line, I was curious about what you would be designing — couches, tables, ottomans? But looking at the collection, it makes perfect sense. It's designed for creativity, for a writer, an artist. Why did you want to do this collection?

I've been using an escritoire for years and it's the perfect thing for writing — its ergonomics — it's closeability ... and the fact that it feels slightly going-back-in-timeish to use one. It's not a category anyone else on earth is doing right now.

What was the inspiration behind the collection? I know you spent time in Japan; did that experience influence this collection?
Aside from my own happiness with my own escritoire, my time in Japan was a big factor. In art school there, calligraphy is mandatory,

and to do it properly, there's a little bit of ritual involved ... this desk does that perfectly, but it works for laptops as well as ink.

There seems to be a combination of order, chaos and calm to the collection. You can close the desk, you can slip the seat underneath, and the bookcases can be closed. You can work at them, but at the same time, you can "walk away," take a break. Was this a consideration when you designed them?

I designed the bookshelves 17 years ago and have lived with them all that time, and pretty much every person who's come into the house has asked me where I got them. It took a while for the penny to drop: these are really lovely functional bookcases that work in whatever combination you buy them in. Don't buy a desk if you don't need one, but the bookcases are pure gold. I sound like a catalogue, but it's true. They're crazy useful. And yes, you can close it all and walk away knowing everything's safe. My own desk, under its closed door, is an absolute pigsty — and had I not revealed that to you now, no one on earth would ever know what a desk slob I am.

This seems like a collection for a writer, a scholar, a book lover...
It is!

What sort of things would you write about sitting at a

desk like this?

Well I'm going to write what I'm going to write regardless. But there's something intimate about these pieces that in turn fuels an intimacy in what's written. I don't think I could write much of what I do at home in a library carrel or a hotel room.

METRO



Author Douglas Coupland teamed up with SwitzerCultCreative to create a line of furniture, being unveiled at Toronto's Interior Design Show this weekend. EMA PETER

THE PIECES



Osaka Bookshelves

Coupland named the stackable shelves after shelving he saw that survived the 1995 Osaka earthquake. "Ninety-nine per cent of books are either paperback, hardcover or 'oversize.' Anyone's book collection will fit snugly and easily into whatever configuration works for them."



Ryoan-ji Lamps

The lamps are available in floor and desk models with a checker-pattern shade made of wire and soji-type material. Coupland was inspired by the temple at Ryoanji in Kyoto. "The sliding doors there have a checkered pattern that melted my brain when I saw them. They're perfect objects."

The Bento Box Escritoire

"Four years ago, I broke my left leg quite badly and for four months I had to reconfigure my entire house. I saw an escritoire on Craigslist and thought: Hmmm ... that might just work for me now. And it really did. This piece here is a perfection of my experience with this kind of desk," says Coupland.

The Writer's Seat

"I have memories of my calligraphy teacher in Sapporo hounding me about not slumping," Coupland says about the seat, available in five colours. "To look at the picture, it looks kind of awkward, but when you sit in it, your body goes ... oh, now I get it. It's very comfy regardless of your body shape or size."



The Douglas Coupland for SwitzerCultCreative collection is only available through SwitzerCultCreative — switzercultcreative.com

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