

# Carney has a good lawyer at his side



SUSAN DELACOURT  
OPINION

Mark Carney was doing a fireside chat last fall in Toronto and the conversation rolled around to Canada's advantages over the United States.

"We have rule of law. That's one of the big things," Carney quipped, and his audience rewarded him with a huge laugh.

As Carney stood this week beside Louise Arbour, his new designate for governor general, it was evident that was more than a throwaway line. If Carney was looking for someone to embody the nation and the challenges it faces, Arbour's appointment is a strong signal that this prime minister believes we are going to need the rule of law, maybe more than ever.

Arbour is the first governor general to have also served on the Supreme Court of Canada, among the many other roles on her distinguished resume. She brings to the job an immense familiarity with the rule of law and international rights.

Carney, meanwhile, is starting down three potentially existential threats to Canada — Donald Trump's disruption is the most active at present, but also the prospect of provincial referendums on separation in Alberta and Quebec. It is fascinating to consider the ways in which he believes he may need the best legal advice possible.

Can the rule of law be used to battle Trump? Carney has recently declared that Trump's tariffs on Canada are outright illegal, though it's not clear yet where that legal battle will be waged.

But I was one who read his remarks introducing Arbour as a job at what Trump has been doing in the United States — a job very similar to that quip at the fireside chat.

Peter Donolo, a former communications chief for Jean Chrétien — who appointed Arbour to the Supreme Court in 1999 — was someone who also saw Tuesday's announcement as "an indirect poke" at Trump.

In commentary on CBC and posted later online, Donolo said, "She and Trump are the same age, but in every other way she is his antithesis. He has spent his career lining his pockets and stirring up hate. She has spent hers upholding the law and the institutions that ensure our democracy and fighting for human rights at home and abroad."

Arbour arrived at the Supreme Court not long after it had done its significant assessment of the Clarity Act, which Chrétien's government introduced after the close result of the 1995 Quebec referendum.

Given that separation threats and referendums are coming back into focus for Canada, the Clarity Act is also highly relevant again. So is the rule of law, as Carney himself said when the subject of separatism came up in the questioning from reporters. He pointed out that for now, the referendum question in Alberta is in the midst of a number of legal processes, including a challenge on whether it would violate Indigenous rights.

Carney indicated that he's content for now to see how these processes go, but it clearly doesn't hurt to have a former Supreme Court justice giving him advice as they go along.

I don't have any insights into what Carney was looking for in a governor general, or how he made the choice, but one suspects Arbour's appeal rested in how similar she is to him.

While she has spent her career steeped in institutions, it was not in the political side of them. She is a citizen of the world as well as of Canada. Her name was bandied out for years for the job she now holds. That describes Carney too before he got his current title.

Listening to the two of them on Tuesday, it was notable how similar they were in style when fielding reporters' questions. Carney tends to declare the facts as he now knows them, and it is usually savvy enough not to get trapped up on on-the-spot judgments.

**Louise Arbour's appointment is a strong signal that this prime minister believes we are going to need the rule of law, maybe more than ever**

Arbour was equally adept, refusing to be pegged on her opinion of the monarchy and instead simply declaring it as a fact of the federation. Asked about a remark she made recently about the "pure folly" of Trump's war on Iran, Arbour said her new position required her to be less candid on making those assessments aloud.

"There are privileges and powers that come with certain duties as well as certain constraints, and I can fully accommodate them."

As a first turn at stepping into the role of governor general, Arbour didn't put a foot wrong.

As Carney said on Tuesday, some of the biggest parts of Arbour's job will be the ones we don't see, including the counsel she will be giving him. Watching them on Tuesday, one had to conclude that Carney had hired himself a good lawyer.

SUSAN DELACOURT COVERS NATIONAL POLITICS FOR TORSTAR.



DR. JEAN CHAMBERLAIN FROESE

Hannah Froese, daughter of columnist Thomas Froese, greets a five-year-old Ugandan girl, Bayat, at the Amani Baby Cottage in Jinja, Uganda, the same orphanage where Hannah had lived.

## We all need rescuing from this broken world



THOMAS FROESE  
OPINION

We can't talk about rescuing mothers without talking about rescuing children, never mind rescuing starfish.

But first, Hannah, my daughter. Not that she's the only person in the world who's ever been rescued. She's not. But on a weekend to celebrate mothers, here's her story.

It's believed that Hannah's birth mom was a university student on the move, on a bus possibly to neighbouring Rwanda. When she couldn't go another inch, she stopped in the western Ugandan city of Mbarara and delivered a child. That was 20 years ago.

Hospitals in Uganda aren't the Ritz, so mothers bring their own bedsheets, then often tie a piece to their newborn to tell everyone, "This one's mine." And in this case, "Please care for her. I can't." Then the young woman was gone.

Nurses in Mbarara's hospital did care and named the little loaf Hannah.

Eventually, the infant went on a six-hour trip up the Masaka Road to Jinja, a charming fishing town on Lake Victoria with an upbeat orphanage named Amani Baby Cottage.

Three years on, Dr. Jean and Mister Thom and their own bambinos, Lizzy and Jonathan, took Hannah's little hand and explained her new

home. Here in Uganda? Yes. And in Canada? Yes. Wherever we are, you are. That's home. Mum. Dad. Sister. Brother. The Froese 5. Let's go.

We fostered Hannah in our care for five years before the Ugandan court got around to sealing the adoption deal on, fittingly enough, her eighth birthday. Shortly later, Canadian citizenship. Now she studies at McMaster University.

But today's fun fact — yes, your kids will grow up — is that Hannah, or Spicy Girl as I call her, recently flew to Uganda, solo for the first time, for a teaching assistant gig at the Kampala international school that she and her siblings knew so well.

Shortly after landing she found herself, naturally, at Jinja's Amani orphanage where Mum, that's Dr. Jean who'd arranged the visit, shot a photo of Spicy with a little Ugandan named Bayat. There's Hannah's inner child loving it also, this returning home full circle.

There's more to the story, even as there's much to tell about the world's estimated 146 million orphans, and more to share about Bayat, the five-year-old with the darling smile and light-filled face. Three years ago, Bayat's mother abandoned the girl to her father. Then he abandoned her too. A girl who's not an orphan but is.

"Wow, that's truly sad," is all Hannah could say. This is how shadows fall in our world, when children are sacrificed on the altar of whatever in Africa or here, or anywhere, really.

Locally, Save the Mothers — Jean

is the founding director of the charity — held its annual Mother's Day walk this morning at the Dundas Driving Park to raise awareness of these issues, especially kids left behind by moms who don't survive childbirth. This remains common, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Between 2000 and 2015, after world health bodies focused especially on this old scourge, the global death rate plummeted about 40 per cent. Progress has since stalled. Imagine a couple of passenger jets full of mothers crashing. Today, Tomorrow. The next day. More than 200,000 moms still die in childbirth every year. Then the children left behind.

In a way we all need a new home and rescuing, if nothing else from our broken selves in a broken world. Even so, the mothers. The seashore is so large and the starfish so many. I, for one, will never tire of the story.

Multitudes of starfish were washed ashore, each one left to die. But a boy picks them up, one-by-one, throwing each back into the water. A cantankerous passerby sees the starfish-littered beach. "You don't think you're actually making a difference, do you?" he says.

The boy picks up a starfish, looks at it and throws it into the ocean. "Well, Mister, I did for that one."

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## Want safer traffic in the city? Start by following the rules

ROB MASCHIEWSKI

**Re: Restoring 2-way traffic to Main Street is an investment in our future, April 25**

One-way streets were made to move traffic, not to look at the stores as you pass by. Drivers must have their eyes on the road.

Vision Zero from the 1990s is outdated. By 2050, Hamilton is to have 300,000 more people bringing vehicles onto our roads.

Main Street will need to be changed to four lanes, since the five lanes on King Street will end with IRT.

The city needs to change roads and sidewalks since the expressways were built without enough lanes and are now truck routes.

The main problem with changing roadways to two lanes from four is that emergency, delivery, garbage and recycling vehicles can't move so traffic is stopped.

The best way to mitigate the problems are to get everyone on board regarding the safety rules and laws of the roads and sidewalks.

Here are examples of the laws and

safety rules not being followed:

- bikes and scooters are to be walked in a pedestrian crosswalk and must follow road laws

- bikes, scooters and pedestrians cannot leave the sidewalk when red light flashes/counts down

- everyone must wait for traffic to stop/clear before crossing at a lighted crossover

- pedestrians cannot force cars to stop on roadways to cross. Go to the corner light or a crosswalk

- vehicles should go the speed limit, not 20 to 30 km/h under

- pedestrians need to make eye contact with drivers and not walk out into the street thinking, "I have the right of way"

- vehicle plates should be visible, excessively tinted windows should be removed and phones should not be in use

- at advanced lights, pull up so the light engages, not 30 feet behind

- walk and ride bikes on the right side using a bell and move to left to pass on sidewalks

- on multi-lane roads, vehicles should move to the right to let vehicles pass, regardless of their speed

- bicyclists must use hand signals and vehicles must use blinkers when on the road

- bicyclists and pedestrians must stay focused when crossing roads

- vehicles and bicycles should have their lights on and bikes should have a working bell

I have been at many accident scenes and almost always the pedestrian or driver was not paying attention to what they were doing.

The city needs to get the bike lanes off the road and within the sidewalk system without taking road lanes away — use city property.

Bikes do not need their own crossing lights because it just causes extra confusion at main intersections.

On wide sidewalks, including the Lakeshore, put a line in the middle to keep people to the right.

With attitude changes, enforcement, parents teaching by example and education, our roads and walkways will be 100 per cent safer for everyone.

ROB MASCHIEWSKI LIVES IN HAMILTON AND IS AN ADVOCATE FOR SAFE BIKE LANES WITH SIDEWALK SYSTEMS.