

Iannicca takes exception to *Peel Biog - IANNICCA, Nando* *News June 15 1994* 'Big Brother' disclosure rules

New regulations requiring politicians to disclose their assets may keep a lot of good candidates from seeking public office, says a city councillor.

Ward 7 Councillor Nando Iannicca called the provisions of the new Disclosure of Interest Act being introduced by Ontario an example of Big Brother at its worst. "This is George Orwell through and through," he said at a recent Peel council meeting.

Business people may be discouraged from running because of regulations which will require councillors and school board trustees to file an annual statement of the assets, liabilities, sources of income and financial interests of themselves, their spouse and their children.

Doug Brown of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs told Peel council the idea is to bring local politicians in line with regulations governing MPPs. He noted that public officials will not have to disclose any dollar figures associated with their assets or incomes.

Iannicca said the provisions are unfair because candidates who are challenging incumbents are not being held up to the same scrutiny. They do not need to make disclosures although they will have access to the statements made by their opponents.

Iannicca said members of the media and owners of media outlets, who are often major stakeholders in local commerce, are not required to disclose their interests. They often comment on issues affected by those interests.

The new legislation, which won't come into effect in time for this



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fall's municipal election, will replace the Conflict of Interest Act. Councillors who have an interest in any issue will have to declare it at the beginning of a meeting and leave the room while an issue is discussed. They will also have to file a written statement explaining the conflict.

Brown said the province wants to encourage a more open process of government. He said the provisions should help local politicians, by providing more specific rules for conflict disclosures. "This should provide a safeguard for you."

Brampton Mayor Peter Robertson welcomed the new regulations, saying he's been providing such a list since the 1970s. "It's a good idea to put it up front and available to anyone who wants it," he said.