

Freedom of Speech Annual Report Template (2025)

As indicated in the December 14, 2018 and September 12, 2018 memos from the then Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, each of Ontario's publicly-assisted colleges and universities is to prepare an annual report on the implementation of a free speech policy. Please use this template; you may append additional documents or institution-specific information as you see fit.

The institutional Freedom of Speech Annual Report will be a public document and should respect privacy obligations. Please report on events or incidents that took place between **August 1, 2024** and **July 31, 2025**.

The reports are to be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) by **September 2, 2025**.

Please submit your institution's annual report and the link to its location on your website to submissions@heqco.ca. Please reach out to HEQCO at the same address with any questions.

Section A: Institutional Policy

You may append additional documentation or institution-specific information as you see fit.

Has your institution amended its free speech policy (or policy framework) since the time of your 2024 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

No.

Where are members of the institutional community (or guests) directed when there is a free-speech-related question or complaint about an institutional event? Please provide contact information.

Questions or complains are directed to the Legal Counsel.

What is your institution's policy on holding events where there are security concerns? To your knowledge, were there any instances where a non-curricular event did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs?

Mohawk College reserves the right to reasonably regulate the time, place and manner of freedom of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt normal college operations and ordinary college activities or endanger the safety of others. In its discretion, Mohawk College may require security personnel to ensure the personal safety of students, visitors and guests.

To our knowledge, no non-curricular event did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs.

Section B: Complaints

You may append additional documentation or institution-specific information as you see fit.

There was one incident between August 1, 2024 and July 31, 2025 where members of the community raised concerns about freedom of speech.

On March 11, 2025, Mohawk College received a concern from a representative of a pro-life outreach rally regarding an interaction between a rally participant and a community member at the Fennell Campus. The rally participant reported that an individual had come in contact with a sign displaying graphic imagery, causing it to shift. Campus Security reviewed the incident on video and determined there was no cause for concern, as the contact occurred while the individual was navigating a walkway partially obstructed by the sign.

Between **August 1, 2024** and **July 31, 2025**, did any member of the institutional community (or guests) make an official complaint about free speech? If yes, please provide a general description that protects the privacy of complainants.

If there has been an official complaint (or more than one):

What were the issues under consideration? Please identify any points of contention (e.g., security costs, safety, student unions and/or groups, operational requirements, etc.).

Please see above.

How did the institution manage the free speech complaint(s)? Was the complaint addressed using the procedures set out in the policy? How were issues resolved?

Please see above.

Further, as a preventative measure, Mohawk College also pre-emptively engages the community when a pro-life or other group conducts a public demonstration on campus. Security Services will monitor the group from a distance, ensuring there are no negative interactions or safety issues. Security Services will also work with the group to ensure traffic flow is maintained along common walkways.

When Mohawk College is notified that a public demonstration will be on campus, Mohawk College communicates their presence to the College community as and if appropriate, reminding the community regarding the right to freedom of expression under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and, provides relevant support resources to both employee and student groups, as well as advise to the use of alternative routes, and set up signage in those areas to advise the College community of where these demonstrations are taking place and to encourage those who may be concerned, to use an alternative route.

Section C: Summary Data

Please provide the following summary data for free-speech-related official complaints received by the institution:

Number of official complaints received under the free speech policy relating to curricular and non-curricular events.	1
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	1
Number of official complaints where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.	0
Number of official complaints under the free speech policy that resulted in the institution applying disciplinary or other institutional measures.	0
To your knowledge, were any free speech complaints forwarded to the Ontario Ombudsman?	No

To the best of your ability, please provide an estimate of the number of **non-curricular events** held at the institution either online or in person between **August 1, 2024, and July 31, 2025**. Non-curricular events include, for example, invited speakers, sporting events, rallies, student life/student affairs events, conferences, etc., as opposed to regular events held as part of an academic program or course.

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