

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.

There have been no amendments made to the Policy since its adoption in November 2018.

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 regarding the interpretation and application of the Policy, including the appropriate complaint process, are the responsibility of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic). The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) can be reached at provost@carleton.ca or 613-520-2600 x 3806

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?

The security and safety of Carleton's community is a priority. University community members may engage in peaceful assemblies and demonstrations as well as make reasonable use of University facilities in accordance with its policies. As was in place before the implementation of the Policy, costs relating to safety and security activities are borne by the host. When the University hosts events or speakers which require security, it assumes such costs; when an external party uses University space for an event that requires security, that party is responsible for those costs. The implementation of the Policy did not change these activities. As set out in our Policy, of necessity, in order to achieve its essential purpose, the University must be able to operate free from unreasonable interference from any person or group. Therefore, the University reserves the right to reasonably regulate the use of facilities and the time, place and manner of speech.

In October 2024, one event was postponed following a risk assessment with respect to the space booked. The event was rescheduled and held in alternate space later that month.

Section B: Complaints

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

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.

While there have been several concerns raised that relate to speech on campus, there were no official complaints under the Free Speech policy.

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.).

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?

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.	0
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	0
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?	Not aware of any such complaints

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.

All non-curricular events being held on University premises require a risk assessment by the Department of Risk Management. Between August 1, 2024, and July 31, 2025, there were a total of 2,839 events approved to take place on campus.

Institutional Comments (if any).

Carleton University is enriched by the voicing of many perspectives that reflect the diverse body of people who form our community. Freedom of speech is vital because debates, unconstrained by preordained conclusions or threats of exclusion, are fundamental to the pursuit of truth, knowledge, and understanding that are the hallmarks of excellence in academia. As such freedom of speech is a deeply held Carleton value that is considered essential to our academic mission