

Freedom of Speech Annual Report Template (2026)

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 must respect privacy obligations. Please report on events or incidents that took place between **August 1, 2025** and **July 31, 2026**.

The reports are to be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security's Postsecondary Education Policy Branch by **September 25, 2026**.

Please submit your institution's annual report and the link to its location on your website to psepolicy@ontario.ca. Please reach out to the ministry's Postsecondary Education Policy Branch 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 2025 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

The policy has not been amended since the time of the 2025 report. The policy is scheduled for review in August 2029.
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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.

Complaints about perceived violations of this policy are to be directed to the Office of the University Ombudsperson, who will provide advice about the appropriate university policy or procedure under which the complaint can be addressed.
<https://www.queensu.ca/ombuds/>

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?

Security-related concerns are covered in the room booking policy, which can be found at <https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/administration-and-operations/policy-booking-use-and-cancellation-bookings-university>. To our knowledge, there have been no such instances during the reporting period.

Section B: Complaints

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

Between **August 1, 2025** and **July 31, 2026**, 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.

Between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2026, there was one official complaint about free speech filed with the university. The complaint was brought to the university ombudsperson and involved a student believing that their freedom of expression was violated in a private group chat on a social media site.

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.).

The individual who brought forward their concern felt that their free expression was violated when their posts to a private group, hosted on a social media platform, were not approved by the administrator responsible for moderating the group.

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?

The institution offered mediation to facilitate a resolution to the concern, but the person raising the concern declined to participate and no further steps were taken.

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 Ombudsperson?	Yes

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, 2025 and July 31, 2026**. 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.

In-person and virtual non-curricular events take place on Queen's campus every day, which are organized and promoted by faculties, departments, individuals, and groups across the university. A figure representing the total number of all non-curricular events held in-person or in virtual environments is not presently available. Queen's can confirm that there were **2,776** in-person and virtual events approved by various on-campus groups with responsibility for approving events. It is possible that additional events were held during the reporting period that are not captured in the above total.

Institutional Comments (if any).

Queen's would like to recognize our partners that provided data for this report, specifically the 2025-2026 Alma Mater Society team.