



FREEDOM OF SPEECH ANNUAL REPORT

for Northern College

2022 - 2023



0

COMPLAINTS

15

**NON-CURRICULAR
EVENTS**

2018

**DATE OF OUR
FREE SPEECH POLICY**



FREEDOM OF SPEECH ANNUAL REPORT

As indicated in the December 14, 2018 and September 12, 2018 memos from the Ministry of 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. **The following report is for August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.**

SECTION A: INSTITUTIONAL POLICY

1. **Has your institution amended its free speech policy (or policy framework) since the time of your 2022 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.**

Northern College has not amended its existing free speech policy since our previous report.

2. **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.**

Members of our institutional community along with guests are directed to our website to review the free speech policy and then invited to submit their concerns and complaints to Human Resources via Amanda Farrow at farrowa@northern.on.ca

3. **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?**

Northern College's Free Speech Policy does not directly address the holding of events but is to be read in harmony with other existing College policies that address the issue more directly. There have been no reported events that have not proceeded due to security concerns since the implementation of the policy.

SECTION B: COMPLAINTS

1. **Between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023, 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.**

No member of the institutional community, including guests made an official free speech complaint between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023.

2. **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.).**

As there were no complaints this past year, this question is not applicable.

3. **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?**

As there were no complaints this past year, this question is not applicable.

SECTION C: SUMMARY DATA

1. **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?	0

2. **To the best of your ability, please provide an estimate of the number of non-curricular events held at the institution between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023. 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.**

*We acknowledge the difficulty of tracking events held remotely due to campus closures caused by the pandemic and recognize that institutions may be unable to provide a complete response to this question for 2022-23.

Northern College has hosted no more than 15 non-curricular events on its campuses in 2022/23.

I attest to the above statements to be true and correct to my knowledge.

Dr. Audrey J. Penner

Signed: Dr. Audrey J. Penner
President & CEO
Northern College
July 31, 2023