



Freedom of Speech Annual Report Template (2024) – Cambrian College

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. 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, 2023** and **July 31, 2024**.

The reports are to be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) by **September 3, 2024**.

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 2023 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

No changes have been made to Cambrian College's policy regarding free speech since the time of the 2023 report. As per Ministry requirements, the policy is reviewed every year to ensure it is current.

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.

Cambrian provides staff, students, and visitors on campus with a number of options where complaints may be directed. Student complaints are facilitated through the Manager of Enrolment Services and non-criminal complaints are managed through the Manager, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Individuals may also present an issue or complaint directly to the Office of the President.

This year there was one inquiry regarding free speech. A student inquired about the possibility of a pro-Palestine protest on campus. The Manager, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion consulted the College policy and responded to the student asking for additional information, however, the student did not reply and there was no further contact from the student.

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?

Cambrian's Use, Lease or Rental of College Facilities and Equipment Policy, provides the guidelines, conditions and requirements governing the use of college facilities to external users. To date, the College has not encountered any free speech related costs and/or safety concerns to events on campus. Nor is the College aware of a non-curriculum event being cancelled or not proceeding due to these concerns.

Section B: Complaints

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

Between **August 1, 2023** and **July 31, 2024**, 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.

The College has yet to receive a formal complaint about free speech regarding any organized on-campus or virtual event/incident, either curricular or non-curricular.

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.).

N/A

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?

N/A

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?	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, 2023 and July 31, 2024**. 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.

There were approximately 193 non-curricular events held at Cambrian College between August 1, 2023 and July 31, 2024.

Institutional Comments (if any).

Cambrian College's unwavering commitment to protecting freedom of speech is exemplified by its long-standing dedication to supporting an inclusive learning community where everyone feels empowered to engage in thoughtful and respectful discussion and debate.