



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2021  
TO: Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario  
FROM: David Barnett, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)  
RE: Freedom of Speech Annual Report

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### Section A: Institutional Policy

Has your institution amended its free speech policy (or policy framework) since the time of your 2020 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

No, we have not amended our free speech policy

[https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/policies\\_procedures/Free%20Expression%20Policy.pdf](https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/policies_procedures/Free%20Expression%20Policy.pdf)

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

As of the date of this report, the Office of the Provost & Vice-President (Academic), which is designated to receive free speech related questions or complaints, has received zero (0) complaints about events on campus.

Contact Information:

Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)  
Lakehead University  
Tel: (807) 343-8181  
UC 2007

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?

There has been positive dialogue about fostering safe spaces and free speech on campus. The University will be seeking the participation of various members of the university community to sit on the *Free Expression Policy Committee*. This Committee will be tasked in reviewing the policy and institutional practices related to free speech.

Understanding and acceptance by members and guests of the Lakehead University community allowed the effective implementation of the *Free Expression Policy* with little to no cost. Based on the collected data, there were zero (0) instances where a non-curriculum event did not proceed due to cost related and/or safety concerns.

### Section B: Complaints

Between **August 1, 2020** and **July 31, 2021**, did any member of the institutional community (or guests) make an official complaint about free speech on campus? If yes, please describe.

No

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.	Zero (0)
Number of official complaints reviewed that were dismissed.	Zero (0)
Number of official complaints where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.	Zero (0)
Number of official complaints under the free speech policy that resulted in the institution applying disciplinary or other institutional measures.	Zero (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 between **August 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021**. 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 response to this question for 2020-21

Lakehead University hosted approximately thirty-two (32) in-person non-curricular events and twelve (12) virtual non-curricular events on its campuses. Of those forty-two (42) non-curricular events, none caused members or guests of the university community to make an official complaint about free speech on campus.