

## MEMORANDUM

Date: August 29, 2019

To: Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario

From: David Barnett  
Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Subject: **Free Speech – Annual Report**

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### Background

Following consultation with its University Senate, Board of Governors as well as the Lakehead University Student Union, the University implemented its *Free Expression Policy* on December 18, 2018.

### Institutional Culture & Policies

While there has not been ongoing debate on campus with regard to freedom of speech, there has been positive dialogue about fostering safe spaces and free speech on campus. As of yet, no issues have emerged that would cause the University to re-evaluate or amend the existing policy. However, the University will be seeking the participation of various members of the university community to sit on the *Free Expression Policy Committee* in the Fall. This Committee will be tasked in reviewing the policy and institutional practices related to free speech.

### Events/Complaints

Since January 1, 2019, Lakehead University has hosted approximately three hundred (300) public events on its campuses. As of the date of this report, the University has received zero (0) complaints through the Policy's mechanisms for reporting about events on campus.

There were therefore no organized campus events or incidents on campus – curricular or non-curricular – which caused members or guests of the university community to make an official complaint about free speech on campus.

<b>Free Speech-Related Official Complaints Receive by Lakehead University</b>	<b>Number</b>
Number of complaints received under the free speech policy relating to non-curricular events and to curricular events	Zero (0)
Number of complaints reviewed that were dismissed	Zero (0)
Number of complaints or incidents where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately	Zero (0)
Number of complaint or incidents under the free speech policy which resulted in the institution applying disciplinary measures	Zero (0)

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.



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