

Freedom of Speech Annual Report for St. Lawrence College (2025)

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 should respect privacy obligations. Please report on events or incidents that took place between **August 1, 2024** and **July 31, 2025**.

The reports are to be posted on the institution's website and submitted to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) by **September 2, 2025**.

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 2024 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

There have been no changes to the SLC free speech policy or framework.

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.

Anyone with a question or complaint related to free speech at St. Lawrence College is directed to the office of the President, care of:

Julie Einarson
Chief of Staff
St. Lawrence College
100 Portsmouth Avenue
Kingston, ON K7L 5A6
613.544.5400 ext. 1824
freespeech@sl.on.ca

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?

Policy on holding events with possible security concerns:

- Risk assessment conducted relying on internal and external data/input gathering.
- Evaluation of organizational ability to mitigate safety or security risks using available resources, both in-house and external.

There were no declined or denied events.

Section B: Complaints

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

Between **August 1, 2024** and **July 31, 2025**, 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.

There were no reported complaints or concerns related to free speech on a St. Lawrence College campus, from a member of our community or guests, in the indicated time period.

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.	None
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	None
Number of official complaints where the institution determined that the free speech policy was not followed appropriately.	None
Number of official complaints under the free speech policy that resulted in the institution applying disciplinary or other institutional measures.	None
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, 2024 and July 31, 2025**. 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.

St. Lawrence College can confirm that there were at least 1,225 non-curricular in-person and virtual events (this includes athletics events) between August 1, 2024, and July 31, 2025.

Institutional Comments (if any).