

Free Speech Annual Report – September 1, 2023

Section A: Institutional Policy

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.

No.

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.

Questions or complaints are directed to the Office of the General Counsel.

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?

Mohawk College reserves the right to reasonably regulate the time, place and manner of freedom of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt normal college operations and ordinary college activities or endanger the safety of others. In its discretion, Mohawk College may require security personnel to ensure the personal safety of students, staff, visitors and guests.

To the best of our knowledge, there were no events that did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs.

Section B: Complaints

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.

On November 3, 2023 and November 4, 2023 Mohawk College received complaints from four (4) students regarding the presence of

the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (Hamilton Against Abortion) on Mohawk College's Fennell Campus on November 2, 2023. The students indicated concerns regarding women's rights and freedoms, graphic imagery and safety concerns.

On November 29, 2022 Mohawk College received three (3) complaints from employees and one (1) complaint from a student regarding the presence of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (Hamilton Against Abortion) on Mohawk College's Fennell Campus on November 16, 2023. The complainants indicated concerns regarding the group's general presence on campus, and, safe, alternative routes to bypass demonstrations.

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.).

See above.

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?

When Mohawk College is notified that the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (Hamilton Against Abortion) will be on campus, Mohawk College communicates their presence to the College community, reminds the community regarding the right to freedom of expression under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and, provides relevant support resources to both employee and student groups. Upon receiving complaints, complainants were reminded that the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (Hamilton Against Abortion) is an advocacy group that asserts the right to freedom of expression on public property under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. To address concerns regarding alternative routes, Mohawk College updated existing communications to advise of the use of alternative routes, and, implemented new signage in those areas to advise the College community of where these demonstrations are taking place and to encourage those who may be distressed by the imagery, to use an alternative route.

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.	7
Number of official complaints reviewed that did not proceed.	7
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

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, 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.

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