

2025 Freedom of Speech Annual Report – NOSM University

The Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) requires each of Ontario’s publicly-assisted colleges and universities to prepare an annual report on the implementation of its free speech policy.

The institutional Freedom of Speech Annual Report will be a public document and should respect privacy obligations. The purpose of this document is to report on any events or incidents that took place between **August 1, 2024** and **July 31, 2025** in relation to the Freedom of Speech policy.

This report, follows the MCURES template and is required to be posted on the university’s website and submitted to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) by **September 2, 2025**.

Section A: Institutional Policy

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.

NOSM University has not made any revisions to the Statement on Free Speech or the framework since the 2024 report. The [most recent version can be found on our Statement on Free Speech website](#).

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.

Mr. Ray Hunt, Vice President, Administration & Chief Operating Officer, receives questions or complaints related to the NOSM University Statement on Free Speech.

Contact Information:

Email: rhunt@nosm.ca

Phone: 705-662-7147

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?

In such instances, the Director, Planning & Risk Management is engaged to formalize a risk management plan. Given our institution's location on both Lakehead and Laurentian Universities' campuses, this would include contracting their respective security departments and/or private security companies for off campus events. The Director is currently undertaking a review of the Emergency Response Plan, which provides guidance on the response to security concerns.

Much of NOSM University's academic learning activity occurs at various off-campus clinical teaching sites across northern Ontario (e.g. hospitals, medical clinics, etc.). Under separate affiliation agreements, teaching sites are responsible for security of our learners.

To our knowledge, there were no instances of non-curricular events that did not proceed due to security concerns or their related costs during the reporting period.

Section B: Complaints

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.

No official complaint was made about free speech during this 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.).

Not applicable

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?

Not applicable

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, 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.

The estimated number of non-curricular events held at NOSM University during the defined period was 24. Of those organized events, none resulted in an official complaint about free speech on campus.

Institutional Comments (if any).