



CONESTOGA
Connect Life and Learning

FREE SPEECH REPORT 2020

Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning

Section A: Institutional Policy

Has your institution amended its free speech policy (or policy framework) since the time of your 2019 report? If so, please explain the reason for the change and provide the link to its location on your institutional website.

In 2019, Conestoga implemented a [Policy Statement on Upholding Free Speech](#). This policy statement was developed by a task force of Ontario college leaders in collaboration with the College Student Alliance and legal experts. Between August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020 no changes were made to the policy statement.

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 noted in Conestoga's Policy Statement on Upholding Free Speech, existing college mechanisms and processes are used to handle free speech complaints and ensure compliance with the policy. Rather than designating a single office for managing free speech complaints, Conestoga supports community members and guests with free speech concerns through several college departments.

For example, students can contact members of their school's program team (e.g., faculty, chair or dean) for academic concerns. Students who have complaints can also direct their questions and concerns to the Student Rights and Responsibilities office. Members of the college community or guests can contact Human Resources or Security Services.

Human Resources

(519) 748-5220 ext. 3399

humanresources@conestogac.on.ca

Student Rights and Responsibilities

srr@conestogac.on.ca

Security Services

519-748-5220, ext. 3357

securityservices@conestogac.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?

Scheduled events are reviewed and approved by Security Services. If a planned event poses security concerns, Security Services will develop and implement a security plan with relevant stakeholders. In the past year, there were no instances of non-curricular events that did not proceed due to security concerns or related costs.

Section B: Complaints

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

Between **August 1, 2019** and **July 31, 2020**, did any member of the institutional community (or guests) make an official complaint about free speech on campus? If yes, please describe.

There were no official complaints about free speech on campus at Conestoga between August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020.

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 were dismissed.	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 between **August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020**. Non-curricular events include, for example, invited speakers, sporting events, rallies, conferences, etc., as opposed to regular events held as part of an academic program or course.

Approximately 1,070 non-curricular events were held at Conestoga between August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020. From August 2019 to March 2020, non-curricular events at Conestoga were held both on-campus and online. Because of the pandemic, all non-curricular events after mid-March 2020 were held online.

Institutional Comments (if any).