



# ST. CLAIR

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C O L L E G E

**TO:** Martin Hicks  
Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario

**FROM:** John Fairley  
Vice President, College Communications & Community Relations

**DATE:** August 30, 2019

**RE: Free Speech Annual Report**

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**Aim:**

To provide an annual report on the implementation and any campus events regarding St. Clair College's Free Speech Policy.

**Background:**

Each of Ontario's public colleges and universities is to prepare an annual report on the implementation of their Free Speech Policy to aid the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) in the development of a public report.

**2019 College Update:**

In the wake of the government's requirement for institutional free speech policies, St. Clair College provided the new policy to all staff and students to review and provide input.

The President and Senior Operations Group meet monthly with all student leaders which includes the Student Representative Council, Student Athletic Association and Thames Students Inc. This venue provides ample opportunity to dialog with student leaders and for formal review of the current policy.

Discussions have also been held with members of the College Advisory Council, Program Coordinators and through staff communications.

These talks resulted in no new recommendations for changes to the Free Speech Policy, which was implemented January 1, 2019.

The College has designated the office of the Vice President of College Communications and Community Relations where members of the institutional community (or guests) are directed when there is a free speech related question or complaint about an event on campus.

Since January 2019, there have been approximately 150 campus events which have been club-based, academic-based or community driven. No complaints or objections were registered relating to issues surrounding freedom of speech.

There have been no changes in institutional practices as a result of the Free Speech Policy and no issues have emerged that would cause St. Clair College to re-evaluate or amend the existing policy.