



**THE ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMERCIALIZATION FRAMEWORK**

**December 2022**

## **BACKGROUND: ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY AS AN INSTITUTION ROOTED IN A COMMITMENT TO COMMERCIALIZATION**

Ontario Tech University (the “University”) is a young, small Canadian research-intensive university that advances discovery and application of knowledge to accelerate economic growth, technological advancement, regional development, and social innovation. In our short history, Ontario Tech University has maintained a fundamental commitment to research excellence and innovation, with a particular aim to advance pure scientific knowledge, develop technological breakthroughs, improve the quality of life and work for all Canadians, and strengthen the quality of public services in Ontario, especially in the sectors of energy, transportation and mobility, health, education, and criminal justice.

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act, 2002, confirms the University’s orientation with respect to commercialization of its research and innovation. The objects of the university are:

- (a) to provide undergraduate and postgraduate university programs with a primary focus on those programs that are innovative and responsive to the individual needs of students and to the market-driven needs of employers;
- (b) to advance the highest quality of learning, teaching, research and professional practice;
- (c) to contribute to the advancement of Ontario in the Canadian and global contexts with particular focus on the Durham region and Northumberland County;

Driven by this [special mission](#) we work with industry in the commercialization of our research, as well as collaborating with not-for-profits and community organizations, and contributing to the advancement of Ontario in the Canadian and Global contexts, with specific focus on the Durham Region and Northumberland County.

The University actively cultivates a research, innovation and entrepreneurial environment that facilitates the development, protection, mobilization, and commercialization of intellectual property in a manner that is fair, respectful of academic freedom, and embedded in the culture of the University.

The University is committed to providing resources to manage, protect, and commercialize intellectual property in a manner that maximizes commercialization opportunities, and brings benefit to Ontario in the Canadian and Global contexts. To enable this the University’s [Strategic Research plan for 2020-2025](#) embeds a set of core values that informs all of our research activity and provides the points on the compass that guide and motivate our innovative culture:

- **Inventive:** Entrepreneurial about real-world applications.
- **Imaginative:** Visioning and thinking creatively about new research pathways.
- **Inspirational:** Engaging the communities where we live, work and play.
- **Inclusive:** Ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion underpin all our research endeavours and our research methods are fair and unbiased.
- **Integrative:** Adopting problem-solving methods that combine multiple perspectives and disciplinary approaches, including community-based research collaborations.

This commitment is equally reflected in the University’s [Integrated Academic-Research Plan](#) states a bold vision – “embracing technology with a conscious to advance knowledge and promote sustainability”. This vision further drives the research, innovation, and entrepreneurial culture at the University. Supported by its mission to equip future leaders to solve complex problems through a community-focused approach on the strategic priorities, the IARP outlines four core objectives that are inextricably linked with the University’s commercialization mandate:

- **Tech with a conscience:** Innovating to improve lives and the planet by incorporating technology-enhanced learning strategies and promoting the ethical development and use of technology for good through intensive research and inquiry.
- **Learning re-imagined:** Co-creating knowledge by adapting to the everchanging educational landscape through the provision of flexible and dynamic learning and research opportunities.
- **Creating a sticky campus:** Cultivating student- and community-centric engagement opportunities by encouraging an inclusive culture for our institution through online and on-campus activities.
- **Partnerships:** Uncovering innovative solutions for their most pressing problems through purposeful research and collaboration with industry, community, government, and academic partners especially as it relates to all facets of global sustainability and well-being.

Ontario Tech supports intellectual property commercialization activities that align with the [Commercialization Mandate Agreement \(CMA\)](#) framework. In the sections below, Ontario Tech outlines its commitment to building intellectual property capacity, literacy, commercialization, engagement with the innovation ecosystem, and providing a net benefit to Ontario.

## 1. MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPOERTY

Ontario Tech University's [Intellectual Property Policy](#) is centred on a creator-owned model that provides flexibility and incentives to academic scholars, industry and partners to encourage the mobilization and translation of research into products, services, and policies that provide both societal and economic benefits to Ontario. In addition, and as outlined in the [Intellectual Property Policy](#) the University provides creators with commercialization help to generate value and wealth for Ontario in the Canadian and Global contexts.

### *Ontario Tech University Commercialization Philosophy Statement*

“Ontario Tech University is a research-intensive institution that drives innovation with technical, social, and economic impact. We strive to solve real-world problems by creating intellectual property (IP) that can bring benefit to the broader society. We aim to create a research environment that facilitates the development, protection, mobilization, and commercialization of intellectual property in a manner that is fair, respectful of academic freedom, and embedded in university culture. This environment balances the interests of the University, individual members, industry partners, and government.”

### **The guiding principles underlying our commercialization efforts are as follows:**

- Fairness, recognition, and reward for academic scholars.
- Respect for academic freedom.
- Respect for intellectual property rights.
- Tech with a conscience.
- Responsible use of public funds to enhance Ontario growth and innovation.

### **Our commitment to commercialization at Ontario Tech University is to:**

- Support and advance research aimed at solving real-world problems.

- Foster an entrepreneurial spirit among academic scholars.
- Grow partnerships to maximize the positive impacts of research on policy, societal advancement, economic development, and improved public services; and
- Promote Intellectual Property literacy among academic scholars.

The University annually tracks and reports on a variety of innovation and entrepreneurship metrics to inform the University community (e.g. research committee, senior leaders, institutional research and analysis, etc.) of the University.

## 2. STRONG POLICY, GOVERNANCE, AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

Ontario Tech University has a contemporary, flexible ownership model with respect to intellectual property as defined in the University’s [Intellectual Property Policy](#) which includes provisions on the commercialization of IP. The [Intellectual Property Policy](#) provides the opportunity for creators to assume the full responsibility for patenting and commercialization, or offer the invention to the University and access services, support and funding from the University. Ontario Tech promotes the intellectual property support and services to the research community throughout the [Commercialization Process](#), which includes timely [IP disclosure](#).

Through the [Ontario Tech Policy Framework](#) and approval from the Board of Governors, formal policies are adopted and become binding across the University.

The [Intellectual Property Policy](#) reflects a comprehensive compendium of important commercialization obligations, approved through the University Policy Framework, and officially approved by the Board of Governors, including:

- Comprehensive Definitions: A comprehensive list of definitions including Creator, Intellectual Property, Invention.
- Policy on Ownership and Acknowledgement of Intellectual Property
- Policy on copyright and patents
- Policy on the Commercialization of Intellectual Property, including mandatory timely disclosure of inventions by all academic scholars.

The overarching goal of the Intellectual Property Policy:

- to encourage the creation of intellectual property, and to facilitate its development and commercialization, while ensuring that the academic freedom and interests of university personnel, and of the University itself, are safeguarded.

The Intellectual Property Policy applies to all University personnel who make or develop intellectual property using University support. They also apply, with necessary changes, to external contractors if the terms of their contracts with the University do not specify ownership of the intellectual property produced under the terms of the contract.

## 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUPPORT OF COMMERCIALIZATION

The Office of the [Vice-President Research and Innovation](#) (VPRI) supports the protection and commercialization of intellectual property in accordance with section 6 of the [Intellectual Property Policy](#) and related policy instruments. The Office of the VPRI provides:

- A dedicated IP Officer located in the Office of Research Services (ORS);
- A step-by-step commercialization plan in accordance with our [Commercialization Process](#);
- Access to [IP educational and awareness resources](#), and programs to increase IP capacity of all relevant stakeholders.
- Partnership team both within the Office of Research Services and [External Relations](#), who collaborate in the effective engagement of industry partners and identify opportunities to make a difference in the Durham Region and Ontario.
- [Brilliant Catalyst Incubator](#) to guide and facilitate entrepreneurship activities.

In addition, the [Intellectual Property Policy](#) outlines the roles and responsibilities of:

- Academic Personnel;
- Non-Academic Personnel; and
- The University.

Other related commercialization services available to the Ontario Tech University Community include:

- Legal advisors on Ontario Tech’s Intellectual Property Policy and related procedures;
- IP advisors to assist in receipt and evaluation of Confidential Invention Disclosures for technologies created at Ontario Tech University
- IP Protection and Patent Funding
- Legal and partnership support negotiating research and license agreements
- Contracting resources
- Industry and partnership development
- Technology marketing and assessments
- Entrepreneurship support
- Marketing and pitching support for patented technologies to Ontario Founders Network, Ontario Tech “license opportunity” webpage

#### 4. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The University understands that exploitation of intellectual property starts by understanding what intellectual property is. The Office of the VPRI has developed and expanded educational resources on topics such as: IP basics, research agreements, invention disclosures, and other topics related to IP commercialization. The resources include:

- Bi-monthly IP webinars to faculty and students;
- Dedicated webpage for [IP education and awareness](#);
- A series of [learning modules](#) that include intellectual property and commercialization.

These resources are designed to increase IP literacy among University personnel. Efforts are made to continually expand and update IP related content to stay relevant.

In addition, the following programming is available:

- Intellectual Property and entrepreneurship educational programs and workshops (e.g. IPON, What is IP, etc.).
- Free On-line Intellectual Property Education Programs
  - [Knowledge Management and Communication – IP and Commercialization](#)

- [Brilliant Online](#)
- [Web resources](#)

## 5. TIMELY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURES

Ontario Tech University, under our [Intellectual Property Policy](#), requires all academic personnel who have developed intellectual property which they intend to commercialize to timely disclose in writing using the [IP disclosure form](#), to the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation. Such disclosure must include the nature of the intellectual property, the names of all co-creators, the source of funding for the research project out of which the intellectual property emerged, and any other relevant information.

Upon receiving an [IP disclosure form](#), the University briefs the creators, and explains the commercialization, process, their rights and obligations towards the University and any potential third-party.

The Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation maintains a record of all disclosures to meet reporting requirements from governments, including the Ontario Commercialization Mandate Agreement Framework, external organizations and help create awareness internally and externally about the commercialization activities of the University. Confidentiality is paramount, and as such, only aggregate data is generally used to meet reporting requirements.

University members wishing to commercialize via the University or on their own, can access step by step assistance at the University, which is highlighted in our [commercialization process](#).

## 6. NET BENEFITS TO ONTARIO

As per the [University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act, 2002](#), the University aims to contribute to the advancement of Ontario in the Canadian and global contexts with particular focus on the Durham region and Northumberland County. The University helps industry, community, government, and academic partners be more effective by bringing them together with students and researchers to uncover innovative solutions for our partners' most pressing problems. Our commitments are outlined as per [Integrated Academic Research Plan](#):

- Strengthen existing and cultivate new, external industry, community, and government relationships within the Durham Region, Northumberland County and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
- Strengthen and add to our existing academic partnerships—regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Broaden our impact and reach beyond the Durham Region and Northumberland County.

The Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation works with the University's research community and external partners to negotiate customized IP and commercialization rights in industry-sponsored contracts. The University's [Intellectual Property Policy](#), permits external partners to own the intellectual property created during collaborative research projects under clearly defined negotiated terms.

To foster strong relationships with community stakeholders, facilitate sponsored-research and commercialization activities and to learn about local activities within Ontario, the University engages with the following regional agencies:

- [Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade](#)
- [Clarington Board of Trade](#)
- Northumberland Learning Advisory Council
- [Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Scugog Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Whitby Chamber of Commerce](#)

The University strongly encourages its researchers and inventors to partner and collaborate with regional organizations, as this supports local and provincial economic and societal benefits.

## **7. BUILDING AND SUPPORTING AN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

Ontario Tech University has taken a prominent role in building and fostering a regional innovation ecosystem. To support and build the innovation ecosystem Ontario Tech University engages with the local and regional Innovation Ecosystem in a variety of ways. Some examples are as follows:

- The University chairs the Durham Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Forum (DEEF). The purpose of DEEF is to bring institutions and organizations involved in supporting entrepreneurship and innovation together to network, share information, and have a more coordinated approach.
- [Brilliant Catalyst's](#) mission is to build a community of experts, influencers, entrepreneurs, and advisors to fuel innovative change and put more Canadian ventures on the map. Brilliant Catalyst provides the tools needed for the entrepreneur to realize the market for their technology and advise on next steps in commercialization.
- Local organizations are instrumental in providing the necessary resources and services to scale innovations to the market. Examples of organizations that we sponsor or partner with to support commercialization efforts in the Ontario and the Region include but are not limited to: [Spark Centre](#), [1855 Whitby](#), [Durham Innovation District](#), [Venture13](#), Northumberland Business Development Assistance Corp .

## **8. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Ontario Tech University will review the commercialization framework as necessary and updated it to meet or address any commercialization priorities of the University to support Ontario within the Canadian and Global context.